The Bible Story in the Bible Words

Into the Promised Land

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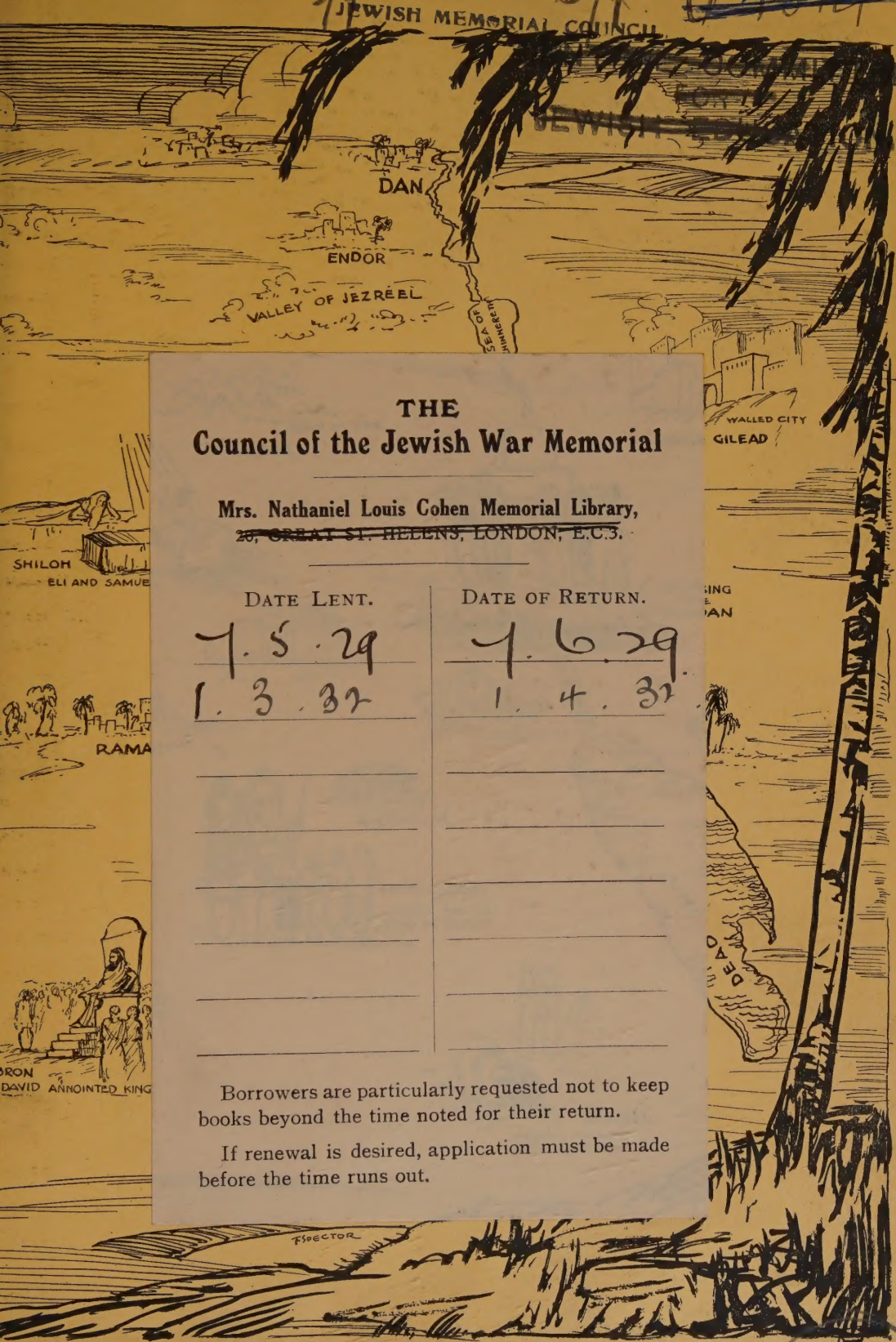

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Into the Promised Land

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Rubens

King David, the anointed of the God of Jacob,
the sweet singer in Israel.

THE BIBLE STORY IN THE BIBLE WORDS

BOOK THREE

INTO THE PROMISED LAND

Selected and Arranged by
RABBI JACOB D. SCHWARZ

CINCINNATI
DEPARTMENT OF SYNAGOGUE AND SCHOOL EXTENSION OF THE
UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

THIS book is published from a special fund for the publication of text-books for Jewish religious schools, donated by Mr. Joseph Schonthal, of Columbus, Ohio, to the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, in memory of his beloved wife, Hermine Schonthal, of blessed memory, a true "mother in Israel," who during her lifetime was devoted to all good works. The fund is self-perpetuating and is styled

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TO
THE MEMORY
OF MY FATHER

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

THE Bible Reader "Into the Promised Land" is the third in our series "The Bible Story in the Bible Words," which the Department of Synagogue and School Extension is preparing for children in Jewish schools. In the preparation of this Reader great care was taken by the author both in the selection of the material and in the arrangement of the lessons. Although as a rule the Bible translation of the Jewish Publication Society has been followed, deviations have been made, when deemed advisable, with a view to simplifying the text in accordance with the needs of children.

This series has been so prepared as to render each lesson a unit in itself, a complete and well-rounded story. The material, which is entirely Biblical, will offer teachers an opportunity to bring to children a knowledge of this portion of the Bible and the ideas it emphasizes. Besides, the fact that this Reader begins with the historical books of the Bible will make it available for use as a source book for the study of Jewish history from Joshua to the Division of the Kingdom.

What may appear to the reader to be a simple task has really involved a great deal of time and thought. The author has produced a Bible Reader that should not only prove useful as a school text-book, but should also stimulate more of our children to read the greatest literary work of the Jewish people.

EMANUEL GAMORAN

The selections contained in this Reader are taken from the following books: Joshua, Judges, First and Second Samuel, First Kings and First and Second Chronicles.

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ACROSS THE JORDAN TO THE PROMISED LAND

NOW it came to pass after the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, that the Lord spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, saying, "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou and all this people, to the land which I give them. Every place that the soles of your feet shall tread upon, to you have I given it, as I spoke to Moses.

"There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life. As I was with Moses, so will I be with thee. I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of good courage; for thou shalt cause this people to inherit the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. The law which Moses My servant commanded thee shall not depart from thy mouth, but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest do according to all that is written therein. For then shalt thou make thy way prosperous, and then shalt thou have good success."

Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, "Pass through the midst of the camp, and command the people, saying, 'Prepare food for yourselves; for within three days ye are to pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the Lord your God giveth you.' "

And to the Reubenites, and to the Gadites, and to the half tribe of Manasseh, Joshua spoke, saying, "Remember the word which Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, saying, 'The Lord your God giveth you rest, and will give you this land. Your wives, your little ones, and your cattle, shall abide in the land which Moses gave you beyond the Jordan; but ye shall pass over before your brethren armed, all the mighty men of valor, and shall help them; until the Lord shall have given your brethren rest, as to you, and they also have possessed the land which the Lord your God giveth them. Then shall ye return to the land of your possession, and possess it.' "

And they answered Joshua, saying, "All that thou hast commanded us we will do, and whithersoever thou sendest us we will go. According as we hearkened unto Moses in all things, so will we hearken unto thee; only the Lord Thy God be with thee, as He was with Moses."

Now Joshua sent out two spies secretly from Shittim, saying, "Go, view the land, and especially

Jericho." So they went, and came into the house of a woman whose name was Rahab, and stayed there. And it was told to the king of Jericho, saying, "There came hither tonight men from the children of Israel to search out the land."

Then the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, "Bring forth the men that entered thy house; for they have come to spy out the land." And she said, "Yea, the men came to me, but I knew not whence they were. And it came to pass about the time of the shutting of the gate, when it was dark, that the men went out. Whither they went I know not. Pursue after them quickly; for ye shall overtake them."

Now the woman had brought the two men up to the roof, and had hidden them with the stalks of flax, which she had spread out on the roof. And the men pursued them by way of the Jordan to the fords; and as soon as those that pursued them had gone out, the gate was shut.

Then the woman came up to the men on the roof, and said, "I know that the Lord hath given you the land. Now therefore, I pray you, swear to me by the Lord, since I have dealt kindly with you, that ye will also deal kindly with my father's house, and will deliver our lives from death." And the men said to her, "When the Lord giveth us the land, we will deal kindly and truly with thee."

Then she let them down by a cord through the window, for her house was on the side of the wall. And she said to them, "Go to the mountains, and hide yourselves there three days, until your pursuers have returned; and afterwards ye may go your way."

Now the men said to her, "Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this scarlet cord in the window. And thou shalt gather thy father, and thy mother, and thy brothers, and all thy father's household into the house. And it shall be, that whosoever shall go out of the doors of thy house into the street, his blood shall be on his head, and we will be guiltless; and whosoever shall be with thee in the house, his blood shall be on our heads, if any hand be against him. But if thou tell our business, then will we be guiltless of thine oath, which thou hast made us swear." And the woman said, "According to your words, so be it."

So she sent them away, and they departed; and she bound the scarlet cord in the window. And they went to the mountains, and abode there three days, until their pursuers had returned; for their pursuers had sought them everywhere, but found them not.

Then the two men returned, and came to Joshua; and they told him all that had befallen them. And they said to Joshua, "Truly, the Lord hath delivered the land into our hands."

Maestrienni

When all the people had passed over, the ark of the Lord passed over.

Now Joshua rose up early in the morning, and he and all the children of Israel removed from Shittim, and came to the Jordan. And Joshua said to the people, "Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you." And Joshua spoke to the priests, saying, "Take up the ark of the covenant, and pass on before the people." And they took up the ark of the covenant, and went before the people.

Then Joshua said to the children of Israel, "Come hither, and hear the words of the Lord your God. Hereby shall ye know that the living God is among you. Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth passeth on before you over the Jordan. And it shall come to pass, when the feet of the priests that bear the ark of the Lord shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, that the waters of the Jordan that come down from above shall be cut off, and shall stand up in a heap."

So it came to pass, when the priests that bore the ark of the covenant came to the Jordan, and their feet touched the water's edge, that the waters that came down from above stood up in a heap. And the priests stood firm on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan, while all Israel passed over on dry ground, opposite Jericho. And when all the people had passed over, the ark of the Lord passed over. And as soon as the priests that bore the ark of the

Lord came up out of the midst of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan returned to their place.

On that day the Lord magnified Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they feared him, as they had feared Moses, all the days of his life.

—Joshua, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4.

THE WALLS OF JERICHO CRUMBLE

NOW Jericho was shut up because of the children of Israel; no one went out, and no one came in.

Now it came to pass, when Joshua was near Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, a man stood before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua said to him, "Art thou for us, or for our enemies?" And he answered, "I am the captain of the host of the Lord!"

Then Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and bowed down, and said to him, "What saith my lord to his servant?" And the captain of the Lord's host said to Joshua, "Take thy shoes off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy." And Joshua did so. And the Lord said to Joshua, "See, I have given Jericho, and its king, and the mighty men of valor into thy hand."

Thereupon Joshua called the priests, and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven rams' horns before the ark."

And to the people he said, "March around the city, and let the armed men pass on before the ark."

So the seven priests bearing the seven rams' horns passed on, and blew the horns, and the ark of the covenant followed them. And the armed men went before the priests that blew the horns, and the rest of the people followed the ark. And Joshua commanded the people, saying, "Ye shall not shout, nor let your voice be heard, neither shall any word come out of your mouth, until the day I bid you shout; then shall ye shout."

So they marched around the city once, and came back to the camp. On the second day they also marched around the city once, and returned to the camp. Thus they did six days.

Now it came to pass on the seventh day, that they rose at the dawning of the day, and marched around the city in the same manner, seven times. At the seventh time, when the priests blew the horns, Joshua said to the people, "Shout; for the Lord hath given you the city." And the people raised a great shout, and the wall fell down. And the people went straight ahead into the city, and captured the city.

And they destroyed utterly all that was in the city, both men and women, both young and old, and all the cattle, with the edge of the sword. And they burnt the city with fire, and all that was therein;

The people raised a great shout, and the wall fell down.

only the silver, and the gold, and the vessels of brass and of iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the Lord. But Rahab, and her father's household, Joshua saved alive, because she hid the messengers, whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho. So the Lord was with Joshua, and his fame was in all the land.

Now Joshua arose, with all the warriors, to go up to Ai. And Joshua chose thirty thousand mighty men of valor, and sent them forth by night. And he commanded them, saying, "Behold, ye shall lie in ambush behind the city; go not very far from the city, and be ye all ready. And I, and all the people that are with me, will approach the city. And it shall come to pass, when they come out against us, that we will flee before them.

"And they will come out after us, until we have drawn them away from the city; for they will say, 'They flee before us.' So we will flee before them. Then ye shall rise up from the ambush, and take possession of the city; for the Lord your God will deliver it into your hands. And when ye have seized the city, ye shall set it on fire."

So Joshua sent them forth, and they went to the place of the ambush, between Beth-el and Ai, to the west of Ai. And Joshua passed the night among the people.

Now Joshua rose up early in the morning, and went up to Ai, he and the men of war that were with

him. And they encamped to the north of the city, and set themselves in battle array. And it came to pass, when the king of Ai saw this, that he went out against Israel to battle, he and his people; but he knew not that there was an ambush behind the city.

Now Joshua and all Israel acted as though they were beaten, and fled by the way of the wilderness. And all the people that were in Ai were called together to pursue them. So they pursued Joshua, and were drawn away from the city.

Then the Lord said to Joshua, "Stretch out the javelin that is in thy hand toward Ai; for to thee will I give it." So Joshua stretched out his javelin toward the city. And as soon as he had stretched out his hand, the men in ambush arose quickly from their place, and entered the city, and captured it. And they hastened and set the city on fire.

Now when the men of Ai looked behind them, behold, the smoke of the city was ascending to heaven. And when Joshua and the people that had fled to the wilderness saw that the men in ambush had captured the city, and that the smoke of the city ascended, they turned back upon their pursuers. And the other Israelites came forth from the city against them; so they were in the midst of Israel, some on this side, and some on that side. And the Israelites slew them, and let none of them remain or escape. —Joshua, Chapters 5, 6, 8.

HOW THE GIBEONITES SAVED THEMSELVES

NOW when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and to Ai, they acted craftily, and pretended to be ambassadors. They loaded their asses with old sacks and patched wine skins, and put on worn shoes and old garments; and the bread with which they provided themselves was dry and crumbled. And they went to the camp at Gilgal, and said to Joshua and to the men of Israel, "We have come from a far country. Now therefore make ye a covenant with us."

Then Joshua said to them, "Who are ye? and whence come ye?" And they said to him, "Thy servants have come from a very far country, because of the fame of the Lord thy God. For we heard of all that He did in Egypt, and of all that He did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites, beyond the Jordan.

"Now our elders and all the inhabitants of our

country spoke to us, saying, 'Take provisions for the journey, and go to meet them, and say to them, We are your servants; now make ye a covenant with us.' This bread we took from our houses hot, on the day we came forth to go to you; and now, behold, it is dry and crumbled. And these wine skins, which we filled, were new; and, behold, they are torn. And our garments and our shoes are worn, by reason of the very long journey." So Joshua made a covenant with them, and the princes of the congregation swore to them.

Now it came to pass three days after they had made a covenant with them, that the children of Israel heard that the Gibeonites were their neighbors. And the children of Israel journeyed, and came to their cities; but they smote them not, because the princes of the congregation had sworn to them by the Lord, the God of Israel.

Then Joshua spoke to them, saying, "Why did ye deceive us, saying, 'We live very far from you,' when ye dwell among us? Now therefore ye are cursed, and ye shall never cease to be bondmen—hewers of wood and drawers of water for the house of my God." And they answered Joshua, and said, "It was told to thy servants, how the Lord thy God commanded His servant Moses to give you all the land, and to destroy all its inhabitants. Therefore we were afraid for our lives because of you, and did

this thing. And now, behold, we are in thy hand: as seemeth good and right to thee to do to us, so do."

So on that day Joshua made them hewers of wood and drawers of water for the altar of the Lord.

Now Joshua made war a long time; there was not a city that made peace with the children of Israel, except Gibeon. And the Lord, the God of Israel, fought for Israel, and gave them the land which he swore to give to their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein.

Then Joshua called the Reubenites and the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh, and said to them, "Ye have kept the charge of Moses the servant of the Lord, and have hearkened to my voice in all that I have commanded you. And now the Lord your God hath given rest to your brethren. Now therefore return to the land of your possession, which Moses the servant of the Lord gave you beyond the Jordan. Only take heed to love the Lord your God, and to walk in all His ways, and to keep His commandments, and to cleave to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul." So Joshua blessed them, and sent them away.

Now Joshua was old, stricken in years. And he called the elders of Israel, and their officers, and said to them, "Behold, I am going the way of all the earth. Consider ye now that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the Lord your

Castelli

"Choose ye this day whom ye will serve."

God spoke concerning you; they have all come to pass. Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve Him in sincerity and in truth.

"But if it seem evil to you to serve the Lord, choose ye this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods that your fathers served, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

And they answered and said, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord, to serve other gods. For the Lord our God, He it is that brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, and preserved us on all the way wherein we went. Therefore we will serve the Lord; for He is our God."

Now it came to pass after these things, that Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died, being a hundred and ten years old.

—Joshua, Chapters 9, 10, 11, 13, 21, 22, 23, 24.

DEBORAH, A VALIANT MOTHER IN ISRAEL

NOW it came to pass after the death of Joshua, that the children of Israel forsook the Lord, the God of their fathers, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and worshipped the gods of the peoples that were round about them. And the Lord delivered them into the hands of their enemies round about; and they were greatly distressed. Then they cried to the Lord, and the Lord raised up judges for them, who saved them from the hands of their enemies.

So it was that the Lord delivered the children of Israel into the hand of Cushan-rishathaim king of Aram; and they served Cushan-rishathaim eight years. And when they cried to the Lord, the Lord raised up a savior for them: Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother. Now the spirit of the Lord came upon him; and he went out to war, and prevailed over Cushan-rishathaim. And Othniel judged Israel; and the land had rest.

Now the Lord delivered the children of Israel

into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor, and the captain of whose host was Sisera. Sisera had nine hundred iron chariots; and he oppressed the children of Israel for twenty years.

At that time Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, judged Israel. She sat under the "palm tree of Deborah" between Ramah and Beth-el in the hill-country of Ephraim; and the children of Israel came up to her for judgment.

Now Deborah sent and called Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh-naphtali. And she said to him, "Hath not the Lord, the God of Israel, commanded, saying, 'Go to Mount Tabor, and take with thee ten thousand men of the children of Naphtali and of the children of Zebulun? For I will draw Sisera, the captain of Jabin's army, to the brook Kishon, with his chariots and his army; and I will deliver him into thy hand.' "

Then Barak said to her, "If thou wilt go with me, I will go; but if thou wilt not go with me, I will not go." And she answered, "I will surely go with thee; but the glory will not be thine on the way that thou goest; for the Lord will deliver Sisera into the hand of a woman." So Deborah arose, and went with Barak to Kedesh. And Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali together to Kedesh; and ten thousand men followed him.

Now it was told to Sisera that Barak had gone

up to Mount Tabor. And Sisera gathered together his nine hundred iron chariots, and all his people, at the brook Kishon. Then Deborah said to Barak, "Up! for this is the day on which the Lord hath delivered Sisera into thy hand."

So Barak, and the ten thousand men that followed him, went down from Mount Tabor. And the Lord threw Sisera, and all his chariots, and all his host, into confusion before Barak. And Sisera alighted from his chariot, and fled on foot. Then Barak pursued the chariots, and the host; and all the host of Sisera fell by the edge of the sword.

Now Sisera fled on foot to the house of Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite; for there was peace between Jabin king of Canaan and the house of Heber the Kenite. And Jael went out to meet Sisera, and said to him, "Come in, my lord, come in, fear not!" So he went with her into the tent; and she covered him with a rug. And he said to her, "Give me, I pray thee, a little water to drink; for I am thirsty." And she opened a bottle of milk, and gave him to drink.

Then he said to her, "Stand at the door of the tent; and it shall be, when anyone cometh and inquireth of thee, saying, 'Is there anyone here?' that thou shalt say, 'No.' "

Now Jael took a tent-pin, and a hammer, and approached him softly, and drove the pin through

his temples, into the ground; for he was in a deep sleep. So he died. And, behold, Barak was pursuing Sisera; and Jael went out to meet him. And she said to him, "Come, and I will show thee the man whom thou seekest." And he went in with her; and, behold, Sisera lay dead, with the tent-pin in his temples.

So God subdued Jabin king of Canaan.

Then Deborah and Barak sang on that day, saying:

"Hear, O ye kings,
Give ear, O ye princes.
I will sing to the Lord,
I will praise the God of Israel.

"The highways ceased to be,
And travellers walked through byways,
Till, Deborah, thou didst arise,
Didst arise, a mother in Israel.

"Deborah, awake, utter a song!
Arise Barak, son of Abinoam!

"The kings of Canaan came;
They fought by the waters of Megiddo.
The stars in their courses fought
Against Sisera from heaven.
The brook Kishon swept them away,
The ancient brook Kishon.

Doré

"So may all Thine enemies perish, O Lord!'

"Through the window the mother of Sisera looked,
Peering through the lattice:
'Why is his chariot so long in coming?'
The wisest of her princesses answer her:
Yea, she answereth herself:
'Are they not finding, dividing the spoil?'

"So may all Thine enemies perish, O Lord;
But may they that love Him be like the sun,
Rising in its might!"

Now the children of Israel prevailed more and more against Jabin king of Canaan, until they had destroyed him.

—Judges, Chapters 4, 5.

"FOR THE LORD AND GIDEON"

NOW the Lord delivered the children of Israel into the hands of Midian; and because of Midian the children of Israel made dens and strongholds for themselves in the mountains. And it came to pass, when the Israelites had sown, that the Midianites came up as far as Gaza, and destroyed their crops; and they left neither sheep nor cattle for the Israelites to live on. For they came up like locusts for multitude, and their camels were without number. And the children of Israel were brought very low because of Midian. And they cried to the Lord.

Then the angel of the Lord came and sat under the oak in Ophrah ,that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite. Now his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the wine-press, to hide it from the Midianites. And the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, and said to him, "The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valor!" And Gideon said to him, "If the Lord is with us, why then has all this befallen us? And where are all His wondrous works of which our

fathers told us, saying, 'Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?' But now the Lord hath cast us off, and delivered us into the hands of Midian."

Thereupon the Lord said, "Go in thy might, and save Israel from the hands of Midian! Have I not sent thee?" And Gideon said, "Wherewith shall I save Israel? Behold, my family is the poorest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." And the Lord said to him, "I will surely be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man!"

So the Midianites assembled, and encamped in the valley of Jezreel. Now the spirit of the Lord clothed Gideon. And he blew the trumpet; and the Abiezrites gathered around him. And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh, and to Asher, and to Zebulun, and to Naphtali; and they also gathered around him.

Then the Lord said to Gideon, "There are too many people with thee, for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel boast, saying, 'Mine own hand hath saved me.' Now therefore proclaim to the people, saying, 'Whosoever is afraid, let him return!' " Thereupon twenty-two thousand of the people returned, and ten thousand remained.

Then the Lord said to Gideon, "The people are still too many. Bring them down to the water, and I will test them for thee there."

Doré

"Bring them down to the water, and I will test them for thee there."

So Gideon brought the people down to the water. And the Lord said to Gideon, "All that lap the water with their tongues, as a dog lappeth, thou shalt set by themselves; likewise all that kneel down to drink." Now the number of those that lapped, putting their hands to their mouths, was three hundred; but all the rest of the people knelt down to drink. And the Lord said to Gideon, "By the three hundred men that lapped I will save you, and will deliver the Midianites into your hands." So Gideon sent all the people home, keeping only the three hundred men.

Now it came to pass the same night, that the Lord said to Gideon, "Arise, go down to the camp of Midian, for I have delivered it into thy hand. And thou shalt hear what they say, and thy hands shall be strengthened."

So Gideon went down with Purah his servant to one of the outposts of the camp. Now the Midianites were lying in the valley like locusts for multitude; and their camels were without number, like the sand on the seashore for multitude.

When Gideon came, behold, a man was telling a dream to his comrade. The man said, "I had a dream, and, behold, a loaf of barley bread came tumbling into our camp, and struck the tent, so that it fell down flat." And his comrade answered and said, "This is nothing else than the sword of Gideon,

the son of Joash, the Israelite. God hath delivered Midian and all the host into his hand."

Now when Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he bowed down in worship. Thereupon he returned to the camp of Israel and said, "Arise, for the Lord hath delivered the host of Midian into your hands!"

Then Gideon divided the three hundred men into three companies. And he put horns into the hands of all of them, and empty pitchers, with torches inside of them. And he said to the men, "Look at me, and do as I do! When I blow my horn, blow yours, and say, 'For the Lord and Gideon!' "

So Gideon and the men that were with him came to the edge of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, when the watch had just been set. And they blew their horns, and broke the pitchers in pieces. And they held the torches in their left hands, and the horns in their right hands, and cried, "The sword for the Lord and for Gideon!" And they stood, every man in his place, round about the camp; and all the host of Midian shouted, and fled.

Thereupon Gideon's men blew their three hundred horns; and the Lord set every man's sword against his fellow, throughout all the host of Midian, as the host fled. And the men of Israel were gathered together from Naphtali, and from Asher, and from Manasseh; and they pursued Midian.

Now Gideon sent messengers throughout all the hill-country of Ephraim, saying, "Come down against Midian at the Jordan." So all the men of Ephraim were gathered together at the Jordan. And they captured two princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb. And they pursued Midian, and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon beyond the Jordan.

Then the men of Ephraim said to Gideon, "Why didst thou serve us thus, that thou didst not call us when thou wentest to fight Midian?" And they reproached him bitterly. But he said to them, "Is not the gleaning of Ephraim better than the vintage of Abiezer? God hath delivered the princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb, into your hands. What have I done in comparison with you?" When he said that, their anger toward him was appeased.

Thereupon Gideon came to the Jordan and passed over, he and the three hundred men that were with him, faint, yet pursuing. Now the kings of Midian, Zebah and Zalmunna, were in Karkor, and all that were left of their host were with them. Then Gideon went up and smote the host. And Zebah and Zalmunna fled; and Gideon pursued them, and captured them.

So the Midianites were subdued by the children of Israel; and they lifted up their heads no more.

Now when Gideon returned from the battle, the

men of Israel said to Gideon, "Rule thou over us, thou and thy son, and thy son's son; for thou hast saved us from the hands of Midian." Then Gideon said to them, "I will not rule over you, nor shall my son rule over you. The Lord shall rule over you!"

—Judges, Chapters 6, 7, 8.

JEPHTHAH'S FATAL VOW

NOW the children of Ammon oppressed the children of Israel that were beyond the Jordan, in the land of Gilead. So the children of Israel assembled, and encamped in Mizpah. And the princes of Gilead said to one another, "Who is the man that will lead the fight against the children of Ammon? He shall be the head of all the inhabitants of Gilead."

Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty man of valor. He had fled from his father's house; and he dwelt in the land of Tob. When the children of Ammon made war against Israel, the elders of Gilead went to bring Jephthah from the land of Tob. And they said to him, "Come and be our chief, that we may fight the children of Ammon."

Thereupon Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, "Did ye not hate me, and drive me from my father's house? Why do ye come to me now, when ye are in distress?" And the elders of Gilead answered, "That you may go with us, and fight the

children of Ammon, and be the head of all the inhabitants of Gilead."

Then Jephthah said, "If ye bring me home to fight the children of Ammon, and the Lord delivereth them into my hand, I will be your head." And the elders of Gilead said, "The Lord shall be witness between us; we will surely do according to thy word." So Jephthah went with them.

Now the spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah, and he marched against the children of Ammon. And Jephthah made a vow to the Lord, saying, "If thou wilt indeed deliver the children of Ammon into my hand, then it shall be, that whatsoever cometh forth from the door of my house to meet me, when I return from the children of Ammon in peace, shall be the Lord's, and I will offer it up as a burnt offering."

Now the Lord delivered the children of Ammon into Jephthah's hand; and he smote them with a very great slaughter. So the children of Ammon were subdued by the children of Israel.

Then Jephthah returned to his house in Mizpah. And behold, his daughter came forth to meet him with timbrels and with dances. Now she was his only child; besides her he had neither son nor daughter.

When Jephthah saw her, he rent his clothes, and said, "Alas, my daughter! Thou hast brought

me very low; for I have opened my mouth to the Lord, and cannot retract."

Then she said to him, "My father, do to me according to that which hath proceeded from thy mouth; inasmuch as the Lord hath taken vengeance for thee on thine enemies, the children of Ammon."

Now the men of Ephraim assembled, and said to Jephthah, "Why didst thou go to fight the children of Ammon, and didst not call us to go with thee? We will burn thy house over thy head!"

Then Jephthah said to them, "I called upon you, but ye did not help me. And when I saw that ye would not help me, I took my life in my hand, and marched against the children of Ammon, I and my

MacGregor

When Jephthah saw her, he rent his clothes, and said, "Alas, my daughter!"

people; and the Lord delivered them into my hand. Why then have ye come this day, to fight against me?"

Thereupon Jephthah gathered together all the men of Gilead, and fought Ephraim; for the men of Ephraim had said, "Ye are fugitives of Ephraim, ye Gileadites, in the midst of Ephraim, and in the midst of Manasseh!" And the men of Gilead smote Ephraim.

Then the Gileadites seized the fords of the Jordan. And it came to pass, that when one of the fleeing Ephraimites said, "Let me cross," the men of Gilead said to him, "Art thou an Ephraimite?" If he said, "No," they said to him, "Say, 'Shibboleth!'" If he could not pronounce it right, but said "Sibboleth," they laid hold of him, and slew him at the fords of the Jordan.

Now Jephthah did to his daughter according to the vow which he had made. And it became a custom that the daughters of Israel went forth to lament the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite four days every year.

—Judges, Chapters 10, 11, 12.

SAMSON THE STRONG

NOW the Lord delivered the children of Israel into the hands of the Philistines, and the Philistines ruled over Israel.

Now there was a man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah. It came to pass, that the angel of the Lord appeared to Manoah's wife, and said to her, "Drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean! For, behold, thou shalt have a son. No razor shall touch his head; for the child shall be a Nazirite of God from the day of his birth to his death."

So Manoah and his wife had a son, and called his name Samson. And the child grew up, and the Lord blessed him.

Now Samson went down to Timnah, and saw a Philistine woman there. When he came back, he told his father and mother, saying, "I saw a Philistine woman in Timnah, who pleaseth me well. Now therefore get her for me, to be my wife."

Then his father and mother said to him, "Is there

no woman among all thy people, that thou goest to take a wife from the Philistines?" But Samson said, "Get her for me, for she pleaseth me well."

So Samson went down to Timnah with his father and mother. When they came to the vineyards of Timnah, behold, a young lion came roaring toward Samson. Now the spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he rent the lion as one would rend a kid, although he had nothing in his hand. But he did not tell his father or mother what he had done.

Thereupon Samson talked with the woman, and she pleased him well. After a while, when he returned to marry her, he turned aside to look at the carcass of the lion. And, behold, there was a swarm of bees in the lion's body, and honey. So he scraped out some of the honey, and went on, eating as he went. And he gave some to his father and mother, and they ate it; but he did not tell them that he had scraped it from the body of the lion.

Then Samson made a feast; for so the young men used to do. Now the Philistines brought thirty companions to be with him. And Samson said to them, "Let me tell you a riddle. If ye can solve it within the seven days of the feast, I will give you thirty changes of clothing; but if ye cannot solve it, then ye shall give me thirty changes of clothing." And they said to him, "Tell thy riddle, that we may hear it."

Leighton

He rent the lion as one would rend a kid.

So Samson said to them:

"Out of the eater came forth food,
And out of the strong came forth sweetness."

But they could not solve the riddle.

Now it came to pass on the seventh day, that they said to Samson's wife, "Coax thy husband to explain the riddle, lest we burn thee and thy father's house! Didst thou invite us hither to make us poor?"

So Samson's wife said to him, "Thou dost not love me! Thou hast told a riddle to my people, and hast not explained it to me." And he answered, "Behold, I have not explained it to my father or mother; shall I then explain it to thee?" But she wept, and urged him strongly; so he explained it to her. Thereupon she explained the riddle to her people.

Now the men said to Samson, before the sun went down:

"What is sweeter than honey?
What is stronger than a lion?"

Then the spirit of the Lord came upon Samson, and he went down to Ashkelon, and smote thirty Philistines, and took their garments, and gave them to the men who had explained the riddle. And he was very angry, and returned to his father's house. So his bride was given to one of his companions.

After a while, at the time of the wheat harvest, Samson visited his wife. But her father would not

let him go in to see her; for he said, "I thought thou didst surely hate her, so I gave her to thy companion. Is not her younger sister fairer than she? Take her, I pray thee, instead."

Thereupon Samson said, "This time I shall be blameless, if I do the Philistines an injury." So he caught three hundred foxes, and turned them tail to tail, and put a torch between each pair of tails. And he set the torches on fire, and let the foxes go into the standing corn of the Philistines, and burnt up the shocks and the standing corn, and also the oliveyards.

Now the Philistines said, "Who hath done this?" And they were told, "Samson, the son-in-law of the Timnite, because he took Samson's wife, and gave her to his companion." So the Philistines went up, and burnt her and her father. Then Samson said, "If ye do thus, I will surely avenge myself upon you." And he smote them hip and thigh with a great slaughter. Thereupon he went down and dwelt in the cleft of the rock of Etam.

Then the Philistines went up, and encamped in Judah. And the men of Judah said to them, "Why have ye come up against us?" And they answered, "We have come up to do to Samson as he hath done to us."

So three thousand men of Judah went down to the cleft of the rock of Etam, and said to Samson,

"Knowest thou not that the Philistines are our rulers? What then is this that thou hast done to us?" And he said to them, "As they did to me, so have I done to them."

Then they said to him, "We have come down to bind thee, that we may deliver thee into the hands of the Philistines." And Samson said, "Swear to me that ye will not fall upon me yourselves!" And they said to him, "We will bind thee fast, and deliver thee into their hands; but we will surely not kill thee." So they bound him with two new ropes, and brought him up from the rock.

Now the Philistines shouted as they met Samson. Then the spirit of the Lord came upon him, and the ropes that were on his arms became as burnt flax, and his bonds fell off. And he found a fresh jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and smote a thousand men therewith.

Then Samson said:

"With the jawbone of an ass, heaps upon heaps,
With the jawbone of an ass I have slain a thousand men."

—Judges, Chapters 13, 14, 15.

"LET ME DIE WITH THE PHILISTINES!"

NOW Samson went to Gaza. And the Gazites were told, "Samson hath come hither." So they lay in wait for him all night at the gate of the city, and remained quiet, saying, "At day-break we will kill him." At midnight Samson arose, and took hold of the gates of the city, and the two gate-posts, and tore them up, bar and all, and put them upon his shoulders, and carried them to the top of the mountain that lies before Hebron.

Now it came to pass afterward, that Samson fell in love with a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. The lords of the Philistines came to Delilah and said to her, "Coax Samson, and find out wherein his great strength lieth, and by what means we may prevail against him; and we will each give thee eleven hundred pieces of silver."

So Delilah said to Samson, "Tell me, I pray thee, wherein thy great strength lieth." And Samson said, "If I am bound with seven fresh bowstrings that were never dried, I shall become weak, and be as any other man."

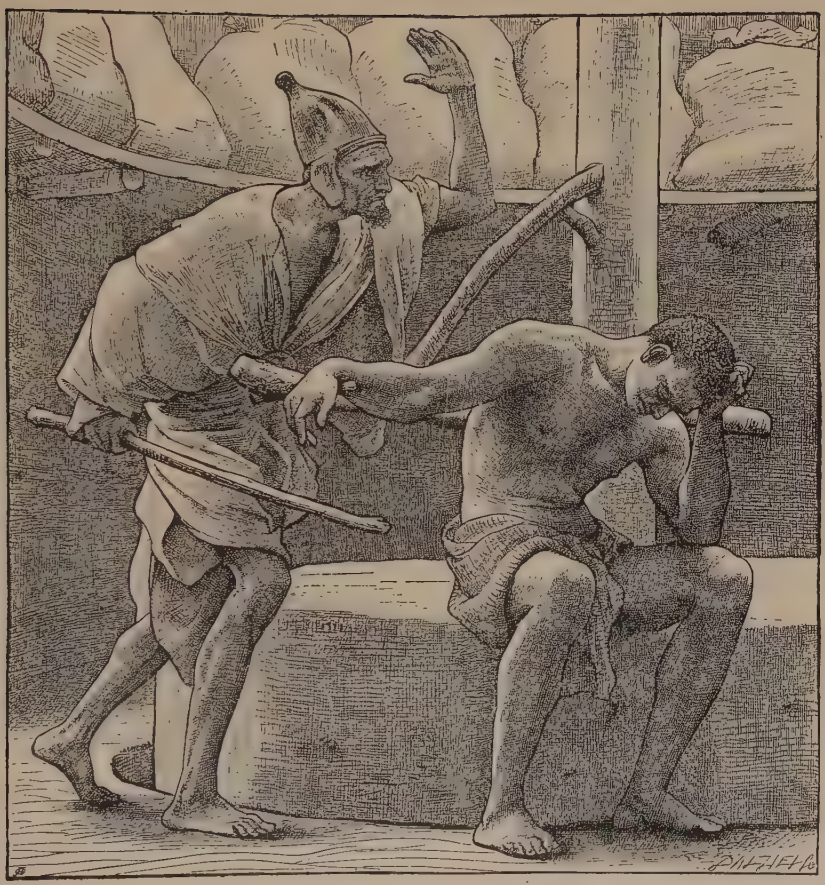
Then the lords of the Philistines brought Delilah seven fresh bowstrings which had not been dried, and she bound him with them. Now she had men lying in wait in the inner chamber. So she said to him, "The Philistines are upon thee, Samson!" Thereupon he broke the bowstrings as a thread of tow is broken when it toucheth the fire.

Then Delilah said to Samson, "Behold, thou hast mocked me, and told me lies; now tell me, I pray thee, wherewith thou couldst be bound." And he said to her, "If I am bound with new ropes wherewith no work hath been done, I shall become weak, and be as any other man."

So Delilah took new ropes, and bound Samson therewith, and said to him, "The Philistines are upon thee, Samson!" Now the men lying in wait were in the inner chamber. But Samson broke the ropes from his arms like thread.

Then Delilah said to Samson, "Hitherto thou hast mocked me, and told me lies. Tell me wherewith thou couldst be bound." And he said to her, "If thou weavest the seven locks of my head with the web, I shall become weak, and be as any other man."

So Delilah wove the seven locks of his head with the web. And she fastened it with the pin, and said to him, "The Philistines are upon thee, Samson!" Thereupon he tore out both pin and web.



Leighton

He ground at the mill in prison.

Then Delilah said to Samson, "How canst thou say, 'I love thee?' Thou hast mocked me three times, and hast not told me wherein thy great strength lieth!" And she entreated him daily, and urged him, until he could no longer bear it. So he told her the truth, saying, "No razor hath touched my head; for I have been a Nazirite of God from my birth. If I am shaved, my strength will depart from me, and I shall become weak, and be as any other man."

Now when Delilah saw that he had told her the truth, she sent for the lords of the Philistines, saying, "Come once more, for he hath told me the truth." So the lords of the Philistines came, and brought the money with them.

Thereupon Delilah put Samson to sleep on her knees. And she called a man, and had the seven locks of Samson's head shaved off; and his strength departed from him.

Now Delilah said, "The Philistines are upon thee, Samson!" And he awoke from his sleep, and thought, "I will free myself as before." But he did not know that the Lord had departed from him.

Then the Philistines seized Samson, and put out his eyes. And they brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he ground at the mill in prison. But Samson's hair began to grow again.

Now the lords of the Philistines gathered to-

gether to offer a great sacrifice to their god Dagon, and to rejoice; for they said, "Our god hath delivered into our hands our enemy Samson, the destroyer of our country, who hath slain many of us."

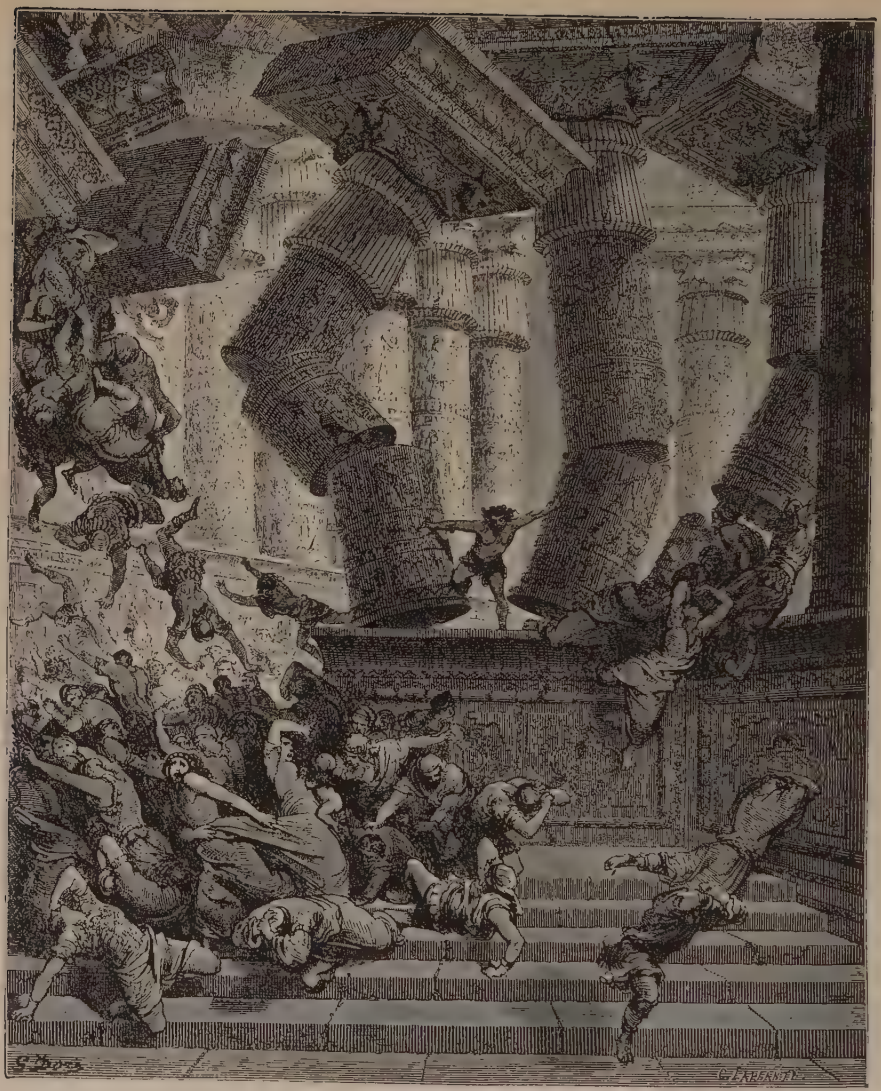
Now it came to pass, when their hearts were merry, that they said, "Call Samson that he may make sport for us." So they called Samson from prison, and he made sport for them. Then they placed him between the two middle pillars on which the house rested.

Thereupon Samson said to the lad that held him by the hand, "Let me lean against the pillars." Now the house was full of men and women; all the lords of the Philistines were there; and on the roof there were about three thousand men and women, that looked on while Samson made sport.

Then Samson called on the Lord, and said, "O Lord God, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me just this once, that I may avenge myself on the Philistines for the loss of my eyes."

Now Samson took hold of the two pillars, one with his right hand, and the other with his left. And Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" He leaned against the pillars with all his might, and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So those that he slew at his death were more than those that he slew in his life.

Then his brothers and all his father's house



Doré

The house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein.

came down, and took him away, and buried him in the burying place of his father Manoah.

—Judges, Chapter 16.

A BOY WHO WAS DEDICATED TO THE LORD

NOW there was a man of Ramah, of the hill-country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah. He had two wives; the name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

Now Elkanah went up year by year to worship and to sacrifice to the Lord of hosts in Shiloh. It came to pass one day, when Elkanah sacrificed, that Hannah wept, and would not eat. So Elkanah said to her, "Why weepest thou? And why eatest thou not? And why is thy heart grieved? Am I not worth more to thee than ten sons?"

After they had eaten and drunk, Hannah arose in bitterness of soul. And she prayed to the Lord, and wept bitterly. And she made a vow, saying, "O Lord of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of Thy handmaid, and not forget Thy handmaid, but wilt give a son to Thy handmaid,

then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head."

Now Eli the priest was sitting by the doorpost of the temple. And it came to pass, as Hannah prayed, that Eli watched her mouth. Now Hannah spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice could not be heard. So Eli thought she was drunken.

Then Eli said to her, "How long wilt thou be drunken? Put away thy wine from thee!" And Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord."

Thereupon Eli said, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant thy petition." And Hannah said, "Let thy servant find favor in thy sight." So she went her way, and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

Now they arose early in the morning, and worshipped the Lord; then they returned to their house at Ramah. After a time, Hannah had a son, and she called his name Samuel.

Now Elkanah, and all his house, went up to offer the yearly sacrifice to the Lord. But Hannah did not go up; for she said to her husband, "I will not go up until the child is weaned, and then I will bring him, that he may appear before the Lord, and abide

there forever." And Elkanah said to her, "Do what seemeth good to thee."

So when Hannah had weaned her son, she took him up with her to the house of the Lord in Shiloh. And she brought him to Eli, and said, "O my lord, as thy soul liveth, I am the woman that stood by thee here, praying to the Lord. For this child I prayed, and the Lord granted my petition. Therefore I have lent him to the Lord, as long as he liveth."

Then Hannah prayed, and said:

"My heart exulteth in the Lord,
I rejoice in Thy salvation.
There is none holy like the Lord;
Neither is there a rock like our God.

"The Lord is a God of knowledge,
And by Him actions are weighed.
The Lord killeth, and maketh alive;
He bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth
up again.
The Lord maketh poor, and maketh rich,
He bringeth low, He also lifteth up.

"For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's,
And He hath set the world upon them.
He will guard the feet of His holy ones;
For not by strength shall man prevail."

Topham

"I have lent him to the Lord, as long as he liveth."

Thereupon Elkanah, and all his house, returned to Ramah. But the child Samuel ministered to the Lord in Shiloh. Now year by year his mother made him a little robe, and brought it to him when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.

—First Samuel, Chapters 1, 2.

THE LORD CALLS SAMUEL

NOW the sons of Eli were wicked men. They knew not the Lord.

Now Eli was very old. He said to his sons, "I hear evil reports concerning you from the people. Why do ye do such things? If a man sin against another, God shall judge him; but if a man sin against the Lord, who shall entreat for him?" But they did not hearken to the voice of their father.

It came to pass at that time, when Eli had lain down, and the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel also had lain down to sleep in the temple of the Lord, where the ark was, that the Lord called Samuel.

Samuel ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am; for thou didst call me." And Eli said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down.

Then the Lord called him again. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am; for thou didst call me." And Eli answered, "I did not call, my son; lie down again."

Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, neither had the word of the Lord been revealed to him. But the Lord called him again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am; for thou didst call me."

Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the child. So he said to him, "Go, lie down; and if thou art called, thou shalt say, 'Speak Lord; for Thy servant heareth.' " So Samuel went and lay down.

Now the Lord came, and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak; for Thy servant heareth."

Thereupon the Lord said to Samuel, "Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which the ears of everyone that heareth it shall tingle. On that day I will judge Eli's house; and the wickedness of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering."

Now Samuel lay still until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. He feared to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called him, and said, "Samuel, my son!" And Samuel said, "Here I am." Thereupon Eli said, "What did the Lord say to thee? I pray thee, hide nothing from me that the Lord said to thee."

So Samuel told Eli everything, and hid nothing from him. And Eli said, "He is the Lord; let Him do what seemeth good to Him."

Now Israel went out to battle against the Philis-

Sant

"Speak, Lord; for Thy servant heareth."

tines; and Israel was smitten, and fled. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were slain.

Now a Benjamite ran from the battle, and came to Shiloh the same day with his clothes rent, and with earth upon his head. When he entered the city, Eli was sitting by the wayside, watching. Now Eli was ninety-eight years old, and his eyes had begun to grow dim, so that he could not see.

When the man that brought tidings told his news, the whole city made an outcry. And when Eli heard the sound of crying, he said, "What meaneth this uproar?"

So the man made haste, and came and told Eli. And he said, "I am he that fled from the battle." And Eli said, "What happened, my son?" And the man answered, "Israel fled before the Philistines, and there hath been a great slaughter among the people. And thy two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead." Thereupon Eli fell off his seat backwards, and his neck was broken, and he died.

Now Samuel grew up, and the Lord was with him. The Lord revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh, and let none of Samuel's words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a prophet of the Lord.

Now Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. His house was in Ramah, and there he judged Israel. And year by year he traveled around to

Beth-el, and Gilgal, and Mizpah, and also judged Israel in those places.

When Samuel was old, he made his sons judges over Israel. Now his sons walked not in his ways, but took bribes, and perverted justice.

—First Samuel, Chapters 2, 3, 4, 7, 8.

SAUL, FIRST KING OF ISRAEL

NOW all the elders of Israel came to Samuel at Ramah, and said to him, "Give us a king, that we may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles."

Thereupon Samuel said, "This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you. He will take your sons, and appoint them to be his horsemen, and to be his captains, and to plow his land, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war. He will take your daughters to be cooks and bakers. He will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your olive-yards. He will take the tenth of your flocks. And ye shall be his servants."

But the people refused to hearken to the voice of Samuel; and they said, "Nay; but there shall be a king over us." So Samuel prayed to the Lord; and the Lord said to Samuel, "Hearken to their voice, and give them a king."

Now Nahash, the Ammonite, came up, and

encamped against Jabesh-gilead. And the men of Jabesh said to Nahash, "Make a covenant with us, and we will serve thee."

But Nahash said to them, "On this condition will I make a covenant with you: that the right eyes of all of you be put out, so that I may lay it as a reproach upon all Israel."

So the elders of Jabesh said to him, "Give us seven days' respite, that we may send messengers throughout all the land of Israel; and then if there be none to deliver us, we will come out to thee."

Now there was a man of Gibeah in Benjamin, whose name was Kish. He had a son whose name was Saul, a handsome young man; there was no one among the children of Israel handsomer than he. From his shoulders and upward he was taller than any of the people.

Now the messengers came to Gibeah, and told the words of the men of Jabesh in the hearing of the people; and all the people lifted up their voices, and wept. And, behold, Saul came from the field behind the oxen; and he said, "What aileth the people that they weep?" So they told him the words of the men of Jabesh.

Then the spirit of God came mightily upon Saul. And he took a yoke of oxen, and cut them in pieces, and sent them throughout all the land of Israel by the hands of messengers, saying, "Whosoever

Raphael

All the people shouted, and said, "Long live the king!"

cometh not forth after Saul, so shall it be done to his oxen."

So the people came forth as one man. And they said to the messengers, "Thus shall ye say to the men of Jabesh-gilead, 'Tomorrow, by the time the sun grows hot, ye shall have deliverance.' " Thereupon the messengers came and told the men of Jabesh; and they were glad. And they said to the Ammonites, "Tomorrow we will come out to you, and ye shall do to us whatever seemeth good to you."

On the morrow, Saul put the people in three companies; and they came into the midst of the camp, and smote the Ammonites, and scattered them.

Now the Lord said to Samuel, "This man shall rule over my people." So Samuel said to the people, "See ye him whom the Lord hath chosen, that there is none like him among all the people?" And all the people shouted, and said, "Long live the king!"

Then all the people went to Gilgal, and made Saul king before the Lord in Gilgal; and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly.

—First Samuel, Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11.

THE BRAVE SON OF A BRAVE FATHER

NOW the Philistines assembled to fight Israel, like the sand on the seashore for multitude; and they encamped in Michmas. Thereupon the people of Israel hid themselves in thickets, and in caves, and in pits.

Then Saul numbered the people that were with him, about six hundred men. Saul, and Jonathan, his son, and the people that were with them, remained in Gibeah, while the garrison of the Philistines went forth to the pass of Michmas.

Now it happened one day, that Jonathan the son of Saul said to the young man that bore his armor, "Come let us go over to the garrison of the Philistines. It may be that the Lord will work for us; for there is no restraint to the Lord to save by many or by few." And his armor-bearer said to him, "Behold, I am with thee; do all that is in thy heart."

So Jonathan and his armor-bearer disclosed themselves to the garrison of the Philistines. And

the Philistines said, "Behold, Hebrews are coming forth from the holes where they have hidden themselves." And they spoke to Jonathan and his armor-bearer, and said, "Come up, and we will show you something!" Thereupon Jonathan said to his armor-bearer, "Come up after me; for the Lord hath delivered them into the hand of Israel."

So Jonathan went up, and his armor-bearer after him. Now about twenty of the men of the garrison fell before Jonathan and his armor-bearer; and a panic arose in the camp of the Philistines.

Now Saul's watchmen in Gibeah looked, and, behold, the multitude was melting away. Then Saul said to the people that were with him, "Number, and see who is missing." So they numbered, and, behold, Jonathan and his armor-bearer were not there.

Thereupon Saul and all the people that were with him went to battle. And all the men of Israel that had hidden themselves in the hill-country of Ephraim, when they heard that the Philistines were fleeing, pursued them likewise. And there was great confusion among the Philistines, and, behold, every man's sword was against his fellow. And the men of Israel smote the Philistines from Michmas to Aijalon. So the Lord saved Israel on that day.

Now Saul had charged the people, saying, "Cursed be the man that eateth any food until evening." So none of the people tasted food. Now

The men of Israel smote the Philistines from Michmas to Aijalon.

there was honey on the ground; but no one put his hand to his mouth, for the people feared the oath.

But Jonathan did not hear his father charging the people; so he put forth the end of the stick that was in his hand, and dipped it in a honey-comb, and tasted the honey; and his eyes brightened. Then one of the people said, "Thy father charged the people, saying, 'Cursed be the man that eateth food this day.' " And Jonathan said, "Behold, I am ready to die."

Now Saul said, "Thou shalt surely die, Jonathan!" But the people said, "Shall Jonathan die, who hath wrought this great salvation in Israel? As the Lord liveth, not one hair of his head shall fall to the ground!" So the people rescued Jonathan.

—First Samuel, Chapters 13, 14.

SAUL'S DISOBEDIENCE

NOW Saul fought against his enemies on every side; against Moab, and against the children of Ammon, and against Edom, and against the kings of Zobah, and against the Philistines. And he delivered Israel from the hands of those that plundered them.

Now Samuel said to Saul, "The Lord sent me to anoint thee king over His people, Israel; now therefore hearken to the voice of the Lord. Thus saith the Lord of hosts, 'I remember what the Amalekites did to Israel, how they set themselves against the Israelites when they came up out of Egypt. Now go and smite the Amalekites, and utterly destroy all that they have.' "

So Saul smote the Amalekites with the edge of the sword. But Saul and the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them.

Now Samuel came to Saul; and Saul said to him, "Blessed be thou of the Lord; I have performed the commandment of the Lord." And Samuel said,

"What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen that I hear? Wherefore didst thou not hearken to the voice of the Lord, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the Lord?" And Saul said, "The people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen to sacrifice to the Lord thy God."

Then Samuel said, "Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in hearkening to the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, He hath rejected thee from being king."

Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned; for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord, because I feared the people, and hearkened to their voice. Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may worship the Lord." But Samuel said, "I will not return with thee; for thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord hath rejected thee from being king over Israel."

Now as Samuel turned to go away, Saul laid hold of the skirt of his robe, so that it tore. Thereupon Samuel said to him, "The Lord hath torn the kingdom of Israel from thee, and hath given it to another, who is better than thou."

Then Samuel went to Ramah, and Saul returned

Schnorr

"The Lord hath torn the kingdom of Israel from thee."

to his house at Gibeah. And Samuel never saw Saul again until the day of his death.

Now the Lord said to Samuel, "How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill thy horn with oil, and go to Jesse, the Beth-lehemite; for I have provided me a king among his sons."

So Samuel did as the Lord had spoken, and came to Beth-lehem; and he called Jesse and his sons. When he saw Eliab, he said, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before Him." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; for I have rejected him. For man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart."

Then Jesse made Abinadab pass before Samuel. And Samuel said, "Neither hath the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass before him. And Samuel said, "Neither hath the Lord chosen this one."

So Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord hath not chosen these. Are all thy children here?" And Jesse said, "There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep." And Samuel said, "Send and fetch him."

So Jesse brought David in. Now he was ruddy, with beautiful eyes, and goodly to look upon. And

Israels

When the evil spirit was upon Saul, David took the harp, and played.

the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is he!"

Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed David in the midst of his brothers. And the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forth.

Now the spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit terrified him. So Saul's servants said to him, "Let our lord command thy servants to seek out a man who is a skillful player on the harp; and it shall be, when the evil spirit cometh upon thee, that he shall play, and thou shalt become well." And Saul said to them, "Find a man who can play well, and bring him to me."

Then one of the young men said, "Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Beth-lehemite, who is skillful in playing, and a mighty man of valor, and handsome, and the Lord is with him." Thereupon Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Send me David, thy son, who is with the sheep."

So David came to Saul, and Saul loved him greatly; and David became his armor-bearer. And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Let David, I pray thee, stand before me; for he hath found favor in my sight."

Now it came to pass, when the evil spirit was upon Saul, that David took the harp, and played. And Saul found relief, and the evil spirit departed from him. —First Samuel, Chapters 15, 16.

DAVID AND GOLIATH

NOW the Philistines gathered their armies together to battle. And Saul and the men of Israel gathered together, and set themselves in battle array against the Philistines.

Now there came forth from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. He had a helmet of brass upon his head; and he was clad in a coat of mail, the weight of which was five thousand shekels of brass. He had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a javelin of brass between his shoulders. The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and the head of his spear weighed six hundred shekels of iron; and his shield-bearer went before him.

Goliath called to the armies of Israel, and said, "I scorn the armies of Israel! Choose a man, and let him come down to me. If he can fight me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then ye shall be our servants."

Now when Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were greatly afraid. But David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail him! Thy servant will fight this Philistine." And Saul said, "Thou art not able to fight this Philistine; for thou art only a lad, and he hath been a warrior from his youth."

Then David said, "Thy servant kept his father's sheep; and when a lion, or a bear, came and took a lamb from the flock, I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it from his mouth. And when he rose against me, I caught him by the throat, and smote him, and slew him. The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion, and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."

So Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord shall be with thee!"

Then Saul clothed David in a coat of mail, and put a helmet of brass upon his head. And David girded his sword, and tried to go; but he could not. So he said, "I cannot go with these." And he took them off. Thereupon David took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in his shepherd's bag, and approached the Philistine, with his sling in his hand.

Now when Goliath saw David, he disdained him, for he was but a lad. And he said to David, "Am I

Repin

"Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a javelin; but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts."

a dog, that thou comest to me with a stick? Come near, and I will give thy flesh to the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field!"

Then David said to the Philistine, "Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a javelin; but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast scorned. This day the Lord will deliver thee into my hand, that all the world may know that there is a God in Israel, and that He saveth not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord's, and He will deliver you into our hands."

Now when the Philistine came to meet David, David put his hand in his bag, and took a stone therefrom, and slung it, and smote the Philistine on his forehead. And the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth. Then David ran, and stood over the Philistine, and took his sword, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith.

Now when the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled. And the men of Israel and Judah arose, and pursued the Philistines, and plundered their camp.

—First Samuel, Chapter 17.

DAVID AND JONATHAN

NOW it came to pass, when David returned from slaying the Philistine, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David; and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. So Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. And Jonathan stripped off his robe, and gave it to David, together with his sword, and his bow, and his girdle.

Thereupon Saul took David, and would not let him go home to his father's house any more. And Michal, Saul's daughter, loved David; and Saul gave David his daughter Michal for his wife. And Saul set David over the men of war; and whithersoever Saul sent him, he had good success.

Now all Israel loved David. The women came forth from all the cities of Israel, dancing, and singing to one another, saying:

"Saul hath slain his thousands,
And David his ten thousands."

This displeased Saul, and he said, "They have

ascribed ten thousands to David, but to me they have ascribed only thousands. All that he lacketh is the kingdom!" And Saul kept his eye on David from that day forth.

So David had great success in all his ways, and the Lord was with him. And when Saul saw that he had great success, Saul stood in awe of him, and became his enemy.

Now Saul told Jonathan his son, and all his servants, to slay David. But Jonathan delighted greatly in David. So he told David, saying, "My father seeketh to slay thee. Now therefore, I pray thee, hide thyself, and I will speak of thee to my father."

Thereupon Jonathan spoke well of David to his father, and said, "Let not the king sin against his servant David; for he hath not sinned against thee, and his deeds in thy behalf have been very good. He took his life in his hands, and smote the Philistine, and the Lord wrought a great victory for all Israel. Thou sawest it, and didst rejoice. Why then wilt thou sin against innocent blood, by slaying David without cause?"

So Saul hearkened to the voice of Jonathan, and swore, "As the Lord liveth, he shall not be put to death!" Then Jonathan called David, and brought him to Saul, and he was in Saul's presence, as before.

Now there was war again. And David went

forth, and fought the Philistines; and they fled before him. Now the evil spirit came upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his spear in his hand; and David was playing the harp. And Saul sought to smite David with the spear; but David slipped away, so that Saul drove the spear into the wall.

Then David fled, and escaped. And he came to Samuel at Ramah, and told Samuel all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went to Naioth.

Now it was told to Saul, saying, "Behold, David is at Naioth." So Saul sent messengers to seize David. But when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, the spirit of God came upon them, and they also prophesied.

Now when it was told to Saul, he sent other messengers, and they also prophesied. So he sent messengers the third time, and they also prophesied.

Then Saul himself went to Naioth. And the spirit of God came upon him, and he also prophesied. Therefore people say, "Is Saul also among the prophets?"

—First Samuel, Chapters 18, 19.

DAVID FLEES FROM SAUL

NOW David fled from Naioth, and came to Jonathan, and said, "What have I done, and what is my sin, that thy father seeketh my life? As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, there is but a step between me and death."

Thereupon Jonathan said to David, "What doth thy soul desire that I should do for thee?" And David said, "Behold, tomorrow is the new moon, when I should sit at the king's table. Now let me go and hide myself in the field. If thy father should miss me, then say, 'David earnestly asked leave of me to go to Beth-lehem, his city; for the yearly sacrifice is held there for all the family.'

"If he should say, 'It is well,' thy servant shall have peace; but if he should be angry, then know that he hath determined to do me harm. Therefore deal kindly with thy servant; for thou hast brought thy servant into a covenant of the Lord with thee. But if there be guilt in me, slay me thyself. Why shouldst thou bring me to thy father?"

Then Jonathan said, "God forbid! If I should

know that my father hath determined to do thee harm, would I not tell thee?"

Thereupon David said to Jonathan, "Who shall tell me if thy father should answer thee harshly?" And Jonathan said, "Come and let us go out into the field." So they went out together into the field.

Then Jonathan said to David, "When I have sounded my father, behold, if he be well disposed toward David, shall I not disclose it to thee? And may the Lord do so to Jonathan, and more also, should it please my father to do thee harm, if I do not disclose it to thee, and send thee away, that thou mayest go in peace. But thou for thy part shalt show me the kindness of the Lord, and shalt not cut off thy kindness from my house forever."

So Jonathan again made a covenant with David, because of his love for him; for he loved him as he loved his own soul.

Now Jonathan said to David, "Tomorrow is the new moon, and thou wilt be missed, because thy seat will be empty. Now thou shalt hide thyself well. And I will shoot arrows, as though I shot at a mark. And I will send the lad, saying, 'Go, find the arrows.'

"If I say to him, 'Behold, the arrows are on this side of thee,' then come, for thou wilt have peace, as the Lord liveth. But if I say to the boy, 'Behold, the arrows are beyond thee,' then go, for the Lord hath sent thee away."

So David hid himself in the field. When the new moon came, the king sat down to the meal; and David's place was empty.

Now Saul said nothing that day, for he thought, "Something hath befallen him." On the morrow, when David's place was again empty, Saul said to Jonathan, "Why hath not the son of Jesse come to the meal, either yesterday or today?"

Then Jonathan answered Saul, "David earnestly asked leave of me to go to Beth-lehem, saying, 'My family hath a sacrifice in the city. If I have found favor in thine eyes, let me go, I pray thee, and see my brothers.' Therefore he hath not come to the king's table."

Now Saul's anger was kindled against Jonathan, and he said to him, "Do I not know that thou hast chosen the son of Jesse to thine own shame? For as long as the son of Jesse liveth neither thou nor thy kingdom shall be established. Therefore now send and fetch him to me, for he deserveth to die."

But Jonathan answered his father, and said, "Why should he be put to death? What hath he done?" Then Saul cast his spear at him, to smite him. So Jonathan knew that his father had determined to put David to death. And Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger, and ate no food; because he was grieved for David, and because his father had put him to shame.

They kissed one another, and wept with one another.

Now it came to pass in the morning, that Jonathan went out into the field at the time appointed with David, and a little lad was with him. And he said to his lad, "Run, find the arrows which I shoot."

As the lad ran, Jonathan shot an arrow beyond him. And Jonathan called after the lad, and said, "Is not the arrow beyond thee? Make haste, tarry not!" and Jonathan's lad picked up the arrow, and returned to his master. But the lad knew nothing; only Jonathan and David understood the matter. Then Jonathan gave his weapons to his lad, and said to him, "Go, carry them to the city."

As soon as the lad was gone, David arose, and fell on his face to the ground. And they kissed one another, and wept with one another. And Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace."

So David departed, and Jonathan went back to the city.

—First Samuel, Chapter 20.

DAVID SPARES SAUL'S LIFE

NOW David escaped to the cave of Adullam. And everyone that was in distress, and everyone that was discontented, gathered about him. There were about four hundred men with him; and he became their captain.

Now David was told, "The Philistines are fighting against Keilah, and are robbing the threshing floors." So David and his men went to Keilah, and fought the Philistines, and delivered the inhabitants of Keilah.

Now Saul was sitting in Gibeah under the tamarisk tree, and his servants were standing about him. And Saul said to his servants, "Hearken, ye Benjamites! Will the son of Jesse give you all fields and vineyards; will he make you all captains of thousands, and captains of hundreds; that you have all conspired against me, and none of you is sorry for me, or discloseth to me that my son hath made a covenant with the son of Jesse, and hath stirred him up against me?"

Thereupon the Ziphites came to Saul at Gibeah, saying, "David is hiding in the strongholds on the hill of Hachilah." So Saul went down with three thousand chosen men of Israel, to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph.

Now David sent out spies, and learned that Saul had come. So he arose, and came to the place where Saul had encamped. Then he said to Ahimelech the Hittite, and to Abishai the son of Zeruiah, Joab's brother, "Who will go down with me to Saul's camp?" And Abishai said, "I will go down with thee."

So David and Abishai came to the camp by night; and, behold, Saul was lying asleep within the barricade, with his spear stuck in the ground at his head. And Abner the son of Ner, the captain of his host, and the people were lying round about him.

Then Abishai said to David, "This day God hath delivered thine enemy into thy hand. Now therefore let me smite him to the earth at one stroke!"

But David said to Abishai, "Kill him not! For who can put forth his hand against the Lord's anointed, and be guiltless? The Lord forbid that I should put forth my hand against His anointed! But now take the spear that is at his head, and the cruse of water, and let us go." So David took the spear and cruse of water; and they departed. And no one of Saul's people saw it, for they were all asleep.

David took the spear and the cruse of water.

Then David went over to the other side of the mountain, afar off. And he called to Abner the son of Ner, saying, "Answerest thou not, Abner?"

Thereupon Abner answered and said, "Who art thou that callest to the king?" And David said, "Art thou not a valiant man, and who is like thee in Israel? Why then hast thou not kept watch over thy lord the king? For one of the people came to kill him. As the Lord liveth, ye deserve to die, because ye have not kept watch over the Lord's anointed. Now see where the king's spear is, and the cruse of water that was at his head!"

Now Saul knew David's voice, and said, "Is it thy voice, my son David?" And David said, "It is my voice, my lord king. Why doth my lord pursue his servant? What have I done? The Lord delivered thee into my hand today, but I would not put forth my hand against the Lord's anointed."

Then Saul said, "Thou art more righteous than I; for thou hast rendered me good, while I have rendered thee evil. Return, my son David. I will do thee no more harm, because my life was precious in thy sight today. Behold, I have acted foolishly, and have erred exceedingly."

Thereupon David answered, "As thy life was of great value in my sight today, so may my life be of great value in the sight of the Lord, and may He deliver me from all trouble. Behold the king's spear!

Let one of the young men come over and fetch it."

Then Saul said, "Blessed be thou, my son David! Thou shalt do great deeds, and shalt surely prevail." So David went his way, and Saul returned home.

—First Samuel, Chapters 22, 23, 26.

DAVID AND ABIGAIL

NOW there was a man in Maon, whose possessions were in Carmel. The man was very rich: he had three thousand sheep, and a thousand goats. The man's name was Nabal, and his wife's name Abigail. The woman was of good understanding, and beautiful; but the man was rude and wicked.

Now David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep in Carmel. So he sent ten young men, and said to them, "Go to Nabal at Carmel, and greet him in my name, saying, 'Peace be to thee, and peace to thy house, and peace to all that thou hast!

" 'I have heard that thou art shearing thy sheep. Now thy shepherds have been with us, and we have done them no harm, neither hath anything of theirs been missing, all the while they have been in Carmel. Ask thy young men, and they will tell thee. Therefore let my young men find favor in thy sight. Give thy servants, and thy son David, I pray thee, whatsoever cometh to thy hand.' "

When David's young men came, they spoke to Nabal in the name of David, in accordance with all these words. Then Nabal answered David's servants, and said, "Who is David? and who is the son of Jesse? There is many a servant nowadays that breaks away from his master! Shall I then take my bread, and my water, and my meat that I have provided for my shearers, and give it to men of whom I know not whence they are?"

So David's young men returned, and told him in accordance with all these words. Then David said to his men, "Gird ye every man his sword!" So every man girded his sword, and David also girded his sword.

Now one of Nabal's young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, "Behold, David sent messengers to greet our master, and he was very rude to them. Now the men were very good to us, and we were not harmed, nor did we miss anything, as long as we went about with them in the fields. They were a wall around us night and day, all the while we were with them keeping the sheep. Consider therefore what thou wilt do, for David has determined to do harm to our master, and to all his house; and our master is such a mean fellow, that no one can speak to him."

Thereupon Abigail made haste, and took two hundred loaves of bread, and two bottles of wine,

and five sheep ready dressed, and five measures of parched corn, and a hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid them on asses. And she said to her young men, "Go on before me, and I will follow you." But she did not tell her husband.

As she rode down under cover of the mountain, behold, David and his men came down toward her; and she met them.

Now David had said, "Surely in vain have I guarded all that belongeth to this fellow, so that nothing of his was missing. He hath returned me evil for good. May God do so to David, and more also, if I leave a single one by daybreak of all those that belong to him."

Now when Abigail saw David, she fell at his feet, and said, "Upon me, my lord, upon me be the guilt! Let not my lord regard that mean fellow, Nabal. I, thy handmaid, did not see the young men whom my lord sent.

"And now, as the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, since the Lord hath withheld thee from blood-guiltiness, and from avenging thyself by thine own hand, may thine enemies be like Nabal! And let this present which thy handmaid hath brought to my lord, be given to the young men that follow my lord.

"Forgive, I pray thee, the offense of thy hand-

She fell at his feet, and said, "Upon me, my lord, upon me be the guilt!"

maid; and when the Lord shall have done to my lord in accordance with all the good that He hath spoken concerning thee, and shall have appointed thee ruler over Israel, it shall be no stumbling block to my lord, or regret of heart, that my lord hath shed blood without cause, or hath avenged himself. And when the Lord shal have dealt well with my lord, then remember thy handmaid."

Then David said to Abigail, "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who sent thee this day to meet me; and blessed be thy discretion, and blessed be thou, that hast kept me this day from blood-guiltiness, and from avenging myself by mine own hand. For as the Lord, the God of Israel, liveth, who hath withheld me from doing thee harm, unless thou hadst made haste and come to meet me, truly there would not have been a single person left to Nabal by daybreak."

So David took that which she had brought him; and he said to her, "Go up in peace to thy house. See, I have hearkened to thy voice."

When Abigail returned to Nabal, he was holding a feast in his house, like a king. Nabal's heart was merry, for he was very drunk; so she told him nothing until morning.

But in the morning, when the wine had left Nabal, his wife told him these things. Thereupon his heart died within him, and he became like a

stone. About ten days thereafter, the Lord smote Nabal, and he died.

Now when David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, "Blessed be the Lord, who hath kept me from evil. For the Lord hath returned the wickedness of Nabal upon his own head."

Then David sent his servants to Abigail at Carmel. And they spoke to her saying, "David hath sent us to thee, to take thee to be his wife." So Abigail followed the messengers of David; and she became his wife.

—First Samuel, Chapter 25.

SAUL AND THE WITCH OF ENDOR

NOW David said in his heart, "I shall yet perish one day by the hand of Saul. There is nothing better for me than to escape into the land of the Philistines." So David, and the six hundred men that were with him, went over to Achish, king of Gath; and they dwelt with Achish at Gath. When Saul was told that David had fled to Gath, he sought him no more.

Thereupon David said to Achish, "If now I have found favor in thy sight, let a place be given to me in one of the other cities, that I may dwell there; for why should thy servant dwell in the royal city with thee?" So Achish gave him Ziklag.

Now Samuel was dead; and all Israel had lamented him, and buried him in Ramah, his own city. And Saul had removed the witches from the land.

Now the Philistines gathered together to fight Israel, and encamped at Shunem. And Saul gathered all Israel together, and they encamped at Gilboa. When Saul saw the host of the Philistines, he was

afraid, and his heart trembled greatly. And when he inquired of the Lord, the Lord answered him not.

Then Saul said to his servants, "Seek me a witch, that I may go and inquire of her." And his servants said to him, "Behold, there is a witch at En-dor."

So Saul disguised himself, and put on other garments, and set out with two of his men; and they came to the woman by night. And Saul said to her, "I pray thee, inquire for me by a spirit, and bring up him whom I shall name to thee." And the woman answered, "Behold, thou knowest what Saul hath done, how he hath removed the witches from the land. Wherefore then layest thou a snare for my life, to cause my death?" So Saul swore to her by the Lord, saying, "As the Lord liveth, no punishment shall befall thee because of this thing."

Thereupon the woman said, "Whom shall I bring up for thee?" And he said, "Bring up Samuel."

Now when the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice. And she said to Saul, "Why hast thou deceived me? Thou thyself art Saul!" And the king said, "Be not afraid! What seest thou?" And the woman said, "I see a godlike being coming up out of the earth." And Saul said, "Of what form is he?" And she said, "An old man cometh up, wrapped in a mantle."

When Saul perceived that it was Samuel, he

Saul bowed his face to the ground, and prostrated himself.

bowed with his face to the ground, and prostrated himself.

Then Samuel said to Saul, "Why hast thou disturbed me, by bringing me up?" And Saul answered, "I am greatly distressed, for the Philistines are making war against me, and God has departed from me, and answereth me no more. Therefore, I have called thee, that thou mayest make known to me what I shall do."

Thereupon Samuel said, "Why dost thou ask me, since the Lord hath departed from thee? The Lord hath done as He spoke through me; yea, the Lord hath torn the kingdom from thy hand, and hath given it to David.

"Because thou didst not hearken to the voice of the Lord, and didst not execute his wrath upon Amalek, therefore hath the Lord done this thing. Tomorrow thou and thy sons shall be with me, and the host of Israel also will the Lord deliver into the hands of the Philistines."

Then Saul fell straightway at full length upon the ground, and was greatly afraid, because of the words of Samuel. He had no strength left; for he had not eaten any food all that day and all that night.

Now when the woman saw that he was greatly frightened, she said to him, "Behold, I have taken my life in my hand, and have hearkened to the

words which thou didst speak to me. Now therefore, I pray thee, hearken thou also to the voice of thy handmaid, and let me set a morsel of food before thee; and eat, that thou mayest have strength, when thou goest on thy way."

But Saul refused, and said, "I will not eat." Thereupon his servants, as well as the woman, urged him; and he hearkened to their voice. So he arose from the ground, and sat upon the bed.

Now the woman had a fatted calf in the house, and she made haste and killed it; and she took flour, and kneaded it, and baked unleavened bread thereof. And she set it before Saul, and before his servants; and they ate.

Thereupon they arose, and went away.

—First Samuel, Chapters 27, 28.

SAUL AND JONATHAN FALL IN BATTLE

NOW the Philistines fought against Israel; and the men of Israel fled from the Philistines, and were slain on Mount Gilboa. And the Philistines overtook Saul and his sons; and they slew Jonathan, and Abinadab, and Malchi-shua, the sons of Saul.

Now the archers overtook Saul, and Saul said to his armor-bearer, "Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith; lest the Philistines come and thrust me through, and mock me." But his armor-bearer would not, for he was very much afraid. So Saul took his sword, and fell upon it. When his armor-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he likewise fell upon his sword, and died with him.

So Saul, and his three sons, and his armor-bearer, died on the same day.

On the morrow, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, they found Saul and his three sons fallen on Mount Gilboa. And they cut off Saul's head, and stripped off his armor, and fastened his body to the wall of Beth-shan.

Now when the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul, all the valiant men arose, and marched all night, and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Beth-shan. Then they returned to Jabesh, and buried the bodies there under the tamarisk tree; and they fasted seven days.

Now a man from the camp of Saul came to David at Ziklag with his clothes rent, and with earth on his head. And David said to him, "Whence comest thou?" And he answered, "I have escaped from the camp of Israel."

Then David said, "What happened there? I pray thee, tell me." And he answered, "The people fled from the battle, and many of the people fell, and Saul and Jonathan his son are dead also."

Thereupon David took hold of his clothes, and tore them; and all the men that were with him did likewise. And they mourned, and wept, and fasted until evening, for Saul, and for Jonathan his son, and for the people, because they had fallen by the sword.

Then David spoke this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son, saying:

"O Israel, thy beauty
Lies slain on thy heights!
How are the mighty fallen!

Doré

"How are the mighty fallen, in the midst of the battle!"

"Tell it not in Gath,
Publish it not in the streets of Ashkelon;
Lest the Philistine girls rejoice,
Lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph.

"Saul and Jonathan, beloved and dear in their lives,
Even in their death were not divided.
They were swifter than eagles,
They were stronger than lions.

"Ye daughters of Israel, weep for Saul,
Who clothed you in scarlet and splendor,
Who put ornaments of gold upon your apparel.
How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle!

"I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan!
Thou wast very dear to me;
Thy love was wonderful to me,
Passing the love of women!

"How are the mighty fallen,
And the weapons of war perished!"
—First Samuel, Chapter 31; Second Samuel, Chapter 1.

KING DAVID'S VICTORIES

NOW David and his men went up to Hebron, and dwelt there. Then the men of Judah came, and anointed David king over the house of Judah. But Abner, the captain of Saul's host, had made Ish-bosheth, the son of Saul, king over Israel.

Now there was war for a long time between the house of Saul and the house of David. And David grew stronger and stronger, but the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker. And it came to pass one day, that two captains of Ish-bosheth, Rechab and Baanah, came into his house, as he was taking his rest at noon, and slew him.

Thereupon all the elders of Israel came to David at Hebron, and said, "Behold, we are thy bone and thy flesh. In times past, when Saul was king over us, it was thou who didst lead Israel; and the Lord said to thee, 'Thou shalt be prince over Israel.' "

So David made a covenant with them in Hebron before the Lord; and they anointed David king over

Israel. David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years: seven years and six months over Judah, and thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah.

Now the king and his men marched against the Jebusites at Jerusalem; and David captured the stronghold of Zion. And he dwelt in the stronghold, and called it the city of David.

Then Hiram king of Tyre sent cedar trees to David, and carpenters, and masons; and they built David a house. So David became greater and greater, for the Lord was with him.

Now when the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over Israel, they went up to seek David; but David smote them, and subdued them.

David also smote Moab, and the Moabites became David's servants, paying tribute.

David also smote the Arameans. He put garrisons in Damascus, and the Arameans became David's servants, paying tribute.

David also put garrisons throughout all Edom, and the Edomites became David's servants.

Now the Ammonites set themselves in battle array. So David sent Joab, and all the host of the mighty men; and the Ammonites fled before them. Thereupon Joab and the people that were with him besieged Rabbah, the royal city; and David came to Rabbah, and fought against it, and captured it.

Castelli

So they brought the ark to the city of David with rejoicing.

Thus the Lord gave victory to David whithersoever he went.

Now David assembled all Israel to bring the ark of God from Kiriath-jearim. So they brought the ark to the city of David with rejoicing, and set it in its place, in the tent that David had erected for it. Then David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord, and blessed the people in the name of the Lord.

Now it came to pass, when the king dwelt in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies, that the king said to Nathan the prophet, "Behold, I dwell in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwelleth within curtains."

Thereupon the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying, "Thus shalt thou say to My servant David, 'Thou shalt not build Me a House to dwell in! Thus saith the Lord of hosts, I took thee from the sheepfold, to be prince over My people Israel. I have been with thee whithersoever thou didst go, and have destroyed all thine enemies.

" 'Now I will make a name for thee, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for My people Israel, that they may dwell in their own place, and not be disquieted any more. And I will subdue all thine enemies.

" 'Now when thy days are completed, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set thine offspring

upon the throne, and will establish his kingdom. He shall build Me a house, and I will establish his throne forever; yea, thy house and thy kingdom shall be established forever!' "

According to all these words did Nathan speak to David.

—Second Samuel, Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8;
First Chronicles, Chapters 13, 17.

FOR JONATHAN'S SAKE

NOW there was a son of Jonathan, who was lame; and his name was Mephibosheth. He was five years old when the tidings came from Jezreel regarding Saul and Jonathan. His nurse picked him up, and fled. And it came to pass, as she fled in haste, that he fell, and became lame.

Now David said, "Is there any one left of the house of Saul, to whom I may show kindness for Jonathan's sake?" Now there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba; so they called him to David.

Thereupon the king said to him, "Art thou Ziba?" And he replied, "Thy servant!" And the king said, "Is there not some one of the house of Saul, to whom I may show the kindness of God?" And Ziba said, "There is a son of Jonathan, who is lame." And the king said, "Where is he?" And Ziba replied, "Behold, he is in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lo-debar."

Then king David sent, and brought Mephi-

bosheth from Lo-debar. When he came to David, he fell on his face, and prostrated himself. And David said, "Mephibosheth!" And he answered, "Behold thy servant!"

Thereupon David said, "I will surely show thee kindness, for the sake of thy father Jonathan, and will restore to thee all the land of thy grandfather Saul; and thou shalt always eat bread at my table." And Mephibosheth prostrated himself, and said, "What is thy servant, that thou shouldst look with favor upon him?"

Then the king called Ziba, and said to him, "All that belonged to Saul and to his house I have given to thy master's son. And thou and thy sons shall till the land for him. But Mephibosheth shall always eat bread at my table." And Ziba said, "According to all that my lord commandeth his servant, thy servant shall do."

Now these were the chief of David's mighty men.

There was Jashobeam, the son of a Hachmonite, who raised his spear against three hundred, and slew them at one time.

Then there was Eleazar the son of Dodo, who smote the Philistines until his hand was weary, and clung to his sword.

Then there was Shammah the son of Age. Where the Philistines were gathered together, there

Castelli

The three mighty men drew water from the well of Beth-lehem, by the gate.

was a plot of ground full of lentils. Now the people fled from the Philistines; but he stood in the middle of the plot, and defended it, and slew the Philistines. So the Lord wrought a great victory.

Then there was Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, who went down and slew a lion in a pit. He also slew an Egyptian, a man of great stature, in whose hand was a spear like a weaver's beam. He went against the Egyptian with his staff, and snatched the spear out of his hand, and slew him with his own spear.

Now three of the mightiest came down to David at the cave of Adullam, while the Philistines were encamped in the valley of Rephaim. David was in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines was at Beth-lehem.

Now David longed, and said, "Oh, that some one would give me water to drink from the well of Beth-lehem, by the gate!" Thereupon the three mighty men broke through the host of the Philistines, and drew water from the well of Beth-lehem, by the gate, and brought it to David.

But David would not drink it, for he said, "God forbid that I should do this! Shall I drink the blood of the men that went at the risk of their lives?" So he would not drink it, but poured it out to the Lord.

—Second Samuel, Chapters 9, 23;
First Chronicles, Chapter 11.

"THOU ART THE MAN!"

NOW it came to pass one evening, while Joab, the captain of the host, was besieging Rabbah, the royal city of the Ammonites, that David was walking upon the roof of his palace; and he saw from the roof a very beautiful woman. And David sent and inquired concerning the woman, and some one said, "It is Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite."

Then David wrote a letter to Joab, saying, "Set Uriah the Hittite in front where the battle is hottest; then retire, that he may be smitten, and die."

So Joab assigned Uriah to the place where he knew valiant men were. And when the men of the city went forth, and fought Joab, some of David's men fell; and Uriah the Hittite died also.

Now when Uriah's wife heard that her husband was dead, she lamented him. And when her mourning was over, David sent and took her to his house, and she became his wife.

But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord.

So the Lord sent Nathan the prophet to David. And he came to David, and said, "There were two men in one city, the one rich, and the other poor. The rich man had very many flocks and herds. But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and reared. It grew up with him, and with his children. It ate of his own morsel, and drank from his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was like a daughter to him.

"Now a traveller came to the rich man. And he spared his own flocks and herds, but took the poor man's lamb, and prepared it for the man who had come to him."

Then David's anger was kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the Lord liveth, the man that hath done this deserveth to die! He shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he had no pity!"

Then Nathan said to David, "Thou art the man! Thus saith the Lord, the God of Israel, 'I anointed thee king over Israel, and delivered thee from the hand of Saul, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah. Why hast thou despised the word of the Lord, by doing what is evil in My sight? Thou hast slain Uriah the Hittite with the sword of the children of Ammon, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife.'

"Now therefore, thus saith the Lord, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, because thou hast despised Me, and hast taken the

"Thou art the man!"

wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife.'" Thereupon David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord!"

Now Bathsheba bore David a son; and the child became very sick. And David besought God for the child; and he fasted, and lay on the ground all night. The elders of his house came to raise him from the ground; but he would not rise, neither did he eat bread with them. And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died.

Now the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead, for they said, "Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spoke to him, and he did not hearken to our voice. How then shall we tell him that the child is dead?"

But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, he perceived that the child was dead. So he said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" And they said, "He is dead."

Then David rose from the ground, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his garments. And he went into the house of the Lord, and worshipped. Then he went to his own house; and when he asked for bread, they set it before him, and he ate.

Thereupon his servants said to him, "What is this that thou hast done? Thou didst fast and weep for the child, while it was alive; but when the child was dead, thou didst rise and eat bread."

Then David said, "While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept, for I said, 'Who knoweth if the Lord will not be gracious to me, that the child may live?' But now that he is dead, why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me."

—Second Samuel, Chapters 11, 12.

A REBELLIOUS SON

IN all Israel there was no one so much to be praised for his beauty as Absalom the son of David. From the sole of his foot to the crown of his head he was without blemish. And when he cut off his hair once a year, because it was too heavy, the weight of the hair was two hundred shekels.

Now Absalom provided for himself a chariot and horses, and fifty men to run before him. He used to rise up early, and stand beside the gate; and if any man had a cause which was to come to the king for judgment, Absalom called to him, and said, "Of what city art thou?"

When the man replied, "Thy servant is of one of the tribes of Israel," Absalom said to him, "Behold, thy cause is good and right, but there is no one appointed by the king to hear thee. Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man who hath any cause might come to me! I would do him justice!" And if a man came near to prostrate himself

before him, Absalom put forth his hand, and took hold of him, and kissed him.

So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

Now Absalom said to king David, "I pray thee, let me go to Hebron, and pay my vow, which I made to the Lord." And the king said to him, "Go in peace." So he arose and went to Hebron.

Thereupon Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "When ye hear the sound of the trumpet, ye shall say, 'Absalom hath become king in Hebron.' "

With Absalom there had gone from Jerusalem two hundred men, that had been invited, and went innocently, knowing nothing. Absalom also sent for Ahithophel, David's counselor, from his city, Giloh. So the conspiracy grew strong, for the people with Absalom increased continually.

Now a messenger came to David, saying, "The hearts of the men of Israel have turned to Absalom." Then David said to all his servants that were with him at Jerusalem, "Arise, and let us flee; otherwise none of us will escape from Absalom. Make haste to depart, lest he overtake us quickly, and bring down evil upon us, and smite the city with the edge of the sword." And the king's servants said to him, "Behold, thy servants are ready to do whatsoever our lord the king shall decide."

So the king went forth, with all his household. And all the king's servants passed on beside him.

Now the king said to Ittai the Gittite, "Wherefore goest thou also with us? Return, and abide with the king; for thou art a foreigner, and also an exile from thine own place. Thou camest but yesterday, and today shall I make thee wander about with us, seeing that I go whither I may? Return thou, and take back thy brethren with thee."

Thereupon Ittai answered the king, and said, "As the Lord liveth, and as my lord the king liveth, in whatever place my lord the king shall be, whether for death or for life, there also will thy servant be." And David said to Ittai, "Pass on." So Ittai the Gittite passed on, with all his men, and all the little ones that were with him.

Now all the country wept with a loud voice, as David's people passed on. And behold, Zadok and Abiathar the priests came, and the Levites with them, bearing the ark of God; and they set the ark down until all the people had finished passing out of the city.

Then the king said to Zadok, "Carry the ark of God back to the city. If I shall find favor in the sight of the Lord, He will bring me back. But if He should say, 'I have no delight in thee,' behold, here I am, let Him do to me as seemeth good to Him." The king said further to Zadok, "Return to the city in

peace, with Ahimaaz thy son, and Jonathan, the son of Abiathar. Behold, I will tarry in the wilderness, until word cometh from you."

So Zadok and Abiathar carried the ark of God back to Jerusalem; and they abode there.

Thereupon David went up the slope of the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went. He had his head covered, and went barefoot; and all the people that were with him covered their heads, and went up, weeping as they went. And it was told to David, saying, "Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom." And David said, "O Lord, I pray thee, turn the counsel of Ahithophel to foolishness."

Now when David came to the summit, behold, Hushai the Archite, came to meet him with his coat rent, and with earth upon his head. And David said to him, "If thou passest on with me, thou wilt be a burden to me. But if thou return to the city, and say to Absalom, 'I will be thy servant, O king! As I have been thy father's servant in time past, so will I now be thy servant'; then wilt thou defeat for me the counsel of Ahithophel."

"Hast thou not there with thee Zadok and Abiathar the priests? Now it shall be that whatsoever thou shalt hear from the king's house, thou shalt tell to Zadok and Abiathar. Behold, their two sons, Ahimaaz, Zadok's son, and Jonathan, Abiathar's son, are with them; and by them ye shall

report to me everything that ye shall hear."

So when Absalom was on the point of entering Jerusalem, Hushai, David's friend, returned to the city.

Now when David was a little past the summit, behold, Ziba, the servant of Mephibosheth, met him, with a couple of asses, saddled, and on them two hundred loaves of bread, and a hundred clusters of raisins, and a hundred of summer fruit, and a bottle of wine.

Then the king said to Ziba, "What meanest thou by these?" And Ziba answered, "The asses are for the king's household to ride on, and the bread and the summer fruit are for the young men to eat, and the wine is for those who become faint in the wilderness to drink." And the king said, "Where is thy master's son?" And Ziba said, "Behold, he abideth at Jerusalem; for he said, 'Today will the house of Israel restore to me the kingdom of my father.'"

Thereupon the king said to Ziba, "Behold, all that belonged to Mephibosheth is thine." And Ziba said, "Let me find favor in thy sight, my lord king."

—Second Samuel, Chapters 14, 15, 16.

DAVID'S LOYAL COUNSELOR

NOW when king David came to Bahurim, behold, a man of the family of Saul, whose name was Shimei the son of Gera, came forth from there, cursing as he came. He cast stones at David, and at all the king's servants, and said, "Begone, begone, thou man of blood! The Lord hath brought back upon thee all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose stead thou hast reigned; and the Lord hath delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom thy son, because thou art a man of blood!"

Then Abishai the son of Zeruiah, said to the king, "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over, I pray thee, and take off his head." But the king said, "Let him curse. The Lord hath said to him, 'Curse David!' Who then shall say, 'Wherefore hast thou done so?' Behold, my own son seeketh my life; how much more this Benjamite! Let him curse, for the Lord hath bidden him."

"Let him curse, for the Lord hath bidden him."

So Shimei went along, cursing as he went, and casting stones and dust.

Now Absalom, and all the men of Israel, came to Jerusalem; and Ahithophel came with him. Now when Hushai the Archite, David's friend, came to Absalom, Hushai said to him, "Long live the king, long live the king!"

But Absalom said to Hushai, "Is this thy kindness to thy friend? Why didst thou not go with thy friend?" And Hushai answered, "Nay! but whom the Lord, and all the men of Israel have chosen, his will I be, and with him will I abide. And moreover, whom should I serve? Should it not be his son? As I have served thy father, so will I serve thee."

Then Absalom said to Ahithophel, "Give counsel as to what we shall do." Now the counsel of Ahithophel in those days was regarded like inquiring of the word of God.

So Ahithophel said to Absalom, "Let me choose twelve thousand men; and I will arise, and pursue David tonight. And I will come upon him while he is weary and disheartened. And all the people that are with him shall flee; and I will smite the king only. And I will bring back all the people to thee."

Now these words pleased Absalom, and all the elders of Israel.

Thereupon Absalom said, "Call Hushai the Archite, and let us hear likewise what he saith."

When Hushai came, Absalom said to him, "Thus hath Ahithophel spoken. Shall we do in accordance with his words? If not, speak thou."

Then Hushai said to Absalom, "The counsel that Ahithophel hath given this time is not good. Thou knowest that thy father and his men are mighty warriors, and of a fierce spirit, like a bear robbed of her cubs in the field. Behold, thy father is now hidden in a pit, or in some other place. And it will come to pass, when David's people fall upon our people at the first, and whosoever heareth it shall say, 'There is a slaughter among the people that follow Absalom,' then even he that is valiant, whose heart is like the heart of a lion, will lose courage utterly; for all Israel knoweth that thy father is a mighty warrior, and that those that are with him are valiant men.

"But I counsel that all Israel be gathered together to thee, from Dan even to Beer-sheba, like the sand by the sea for multitude; and that thou thyself go to battle. So will we come upon him as the dew falleth on the ground; and of him and of all the men that are with him we will not leave a single one. And if he should withdraw into a city, then shall all Israel bring ropes to that city, and we will pull it into the valley, until even one small stone shall not be found there."

Then Absalom and all the men of Israel said,

"The counsel of Hushai the Archite is better than the counsel of Ahithophel."

Thereupon Hushai said to Zadok and Abiathar the priests, "Thus and thus did Ahithophel counsel Absalom and the elders of Israel, and thus and thus have I counselled. Now therefore send quickly, and tell David, saying, 'Do not pass the night in the plains of the wilderness, but by all means cross the water; lest the king be swallowed up, and all the people that are with him.' "

Now Jonathan and Ahimaaz were staying at En-rogel. A maidservant used to go and tell them the news, and they would go and tell king David; for they might not be seen coming into the city. But a lad saw them, and told Absalom. So they went away quickly, and came to the house of a man in Bahurim, who had a well in his court; and they went down into the well.

Now the man's wife spread a covering over the mouth of the well, and strewed crushed grain thereon, so that nothing was perceived. Then Absalom's servants came to the house, and said, "Where are Ahimaaz and Jonathan?" And the woman answered, "They have gone over the brook." And when the men had sought and could not find them, they returned to Jerusalem.

After the men had departed, Ahimaaz and Jonathan came up out of the well, and went and told

king David, saying, "Arise ye, and cross the water quickly, for thus hath Ahithophel counselled against you." So David, and all the people that were with him, arose and passed over the Jordan; by day-break there was not one that had not gone over the Jordan.

Now when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled his ass, and arose, and went home, and set his house in order, and strangled himself. So he died, and was buried in his father's sepulchre.

—Second Samuel, Chapters 16, 17.

THE FALL OF ABSALOM

NOW when David came to Mahanaim, Shobi, and Machir, and Barzillai the Gileadite, brought beds, and basins, and earthen vessels, and wheat, and barley, and meal, and parched corn, and beans, and lentils, and honey, and cheese, for David, and for the people that were with him, to eat; for they said, "The people are hungry, and faint, and thirsty, in the wilderness."

Thereupon Absalom passed over the Jordan, and all the men of Israel with him. Absalom had made Amasa commander of the host; and he encamped in the land of Gilead.

Now David numbered the people that were with him, and set captains of thousands and captains of hundreds over them. And David sent the people forth, a third part under Joab, a third part under Abishai, Joab's brother, and a third part under Ittai the Gittite.

Then the king said to the people, "I myself will go forth with you." But the people said, "Thou

shalt not go forth! For if we should flee, they will not care; even if half of us should die, they will not care; but thou art worth ten thousand of us. It is better that thou shouldst be ready to aid us from the city." And the king said to them, "What seemeth best to you, I will do."

So the king stood beside the gate, while the people went forth by hundreds and by thousands. And the king commanded Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, "Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom." And all the people heard when the king commanded the captains concerning Absalom.

So the people went worth into the field against Israel; and the battle took place in the forest of Ephraim. And the people of Israel were smitten before the servants of David, and there was a great slaughter there on that day. For the battle extended over the whole country, and the forest devoured more people on that day than the sword.

Now Absalom chanced to meet the servants of David. He was riding on his mule; and the mule passed under the thick boughs of a great oak. And Absalom's hair caught fast in the oak; and he was suspended between heaven and earth, while the mule went on.

Now a man saw it, and told Joab, saying, "Behold, I saw Absalom hanging on an oak." And Joab

Schnorr

Absalom's hair caught fast in the oak; and he was suspended between heaven and earth, while the mule went on.

said to the man, "Behold, thou sawest it! Why then didst thou not smite him to the ground? If thou hadst done so, I would have had to give thee ten pieces of silver, and a girdle."

But the man said to Joab, "Though I should receive a thousand pieces of silver, I would not put forth my hand against the king's son. For in our hearing the king charged thee and Abishai and Ittai, saying, 'Beware that none touch the young man Absalom!' And if I had thus forfeited mine own life—and there is nothing hidden from the king—then thou thyself wouldst have stood aloof."

Then Joab said, "I may not tarry thus with thee." So he took three darts in his hand, and thrust them through Absalom's heart, while he was still alive in the midst of the oak. And ten young men that bore Joab's armor gathered about Absalom, and smote him, and slew him.

Thereupon Joab blew the trumpet, and the people returned from pursuing Israel. And they took Absalom, and cast him into the great pit in the forest, and raised a very great heap of stones over him. And Israel fled to its tents.

Now Absalom in his lifetime had erected for himself the pillar which is in the king's dale; for he said, "I have no son to keep my name in remembrance." So he called the pillar after his own name; and it is called "Absalom's Monument" to this day.

Then said Ahimaaz the son of Zadok, "Let me run, and bear tidings to the king, that the Lord hath avenged him on his enemies." But Joab said to him, "Thou shalt bear tidings another day; but today thou shalt not bear tidings, because the king's son is dead." So Joab said to the Cushite, "Go, tell the king what thou hast seen." And the Cushite prostrated himself before Joab, and ran.

Thereupon Ahimaaz again said to Joab, "Come what may, I pray thee, let me run after the Cushite." And Joab said, "Wherefore wilt thou run, my son, seeing that thou wilt receive no reward for the tidings?" But Ahimaaz said, "Come what may, I will run." So Joab said to him, "Run." Thereupon Ahimaaz ran by the way of the Plain, and outran the Cushite.

Now David was sitting between the two gates; and the watchman went up to the roof of the gate, and lifted up his eyes, and looked, and, behold, there was a man running alone. And the watchman cried out, and told the king. And the king said, "If he be alone, he hath tidings in his mouth." And he came nearer and nearer.

Thereupon the watchman saw another man running; and he cried out, and said, "Behold, another man running alone!" And the king said, "He also bringeth tidings." And the watchman said, "I think the runing of the foremost is like the running of

Ahimaaz the son of Zadok." And the king said, "He is a good man, and cometh with good tidings."

Now Ahimaaz cried out, and said to the king, "All is well!" And he prostrated himself before the king with his face to the ground, and said, "Blessed be the Lord thy God, who hath delivered up the men that lifted up their hands against my lord the king."

Then the king said, "Is the young man Absalom safe?" And Ahimaaz answered, "When Joab sent thy servant, I saw a great tumult, but I knew not what it was." And the king said, "Turn aside, and stand here." So he turned aside, and stood still.

Thereupon, behold, the Cushite came; and he said, "Tidings for my lord the king! The Lord hath avenged thee this day on all those that rose up against thee." And the king said to the Cushite, "Is the young man Absalom safe?" And the Cushite answered, "May the enemies of my lord the king, and all that rise up against thee to do thee harm, be as that young man is!"

Now the king was greatly moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept. And thus he said, as he went, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would that I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

Now it was told to Joab, "Behold, the king weepeth and mourneth for Absalom." And the victory that day was turned into mourning for all the

people; for the people heard it said, "The king grieveth for his son." So the people stole away that day into the city, as people that are ashamed steal away when they flee in battle.

But the king covered his face, and cried with a loud voice, "O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

Then Joab came to the king, and said, "Thou hast this day put to shame all thy servants, who have saved thy life, and the lives of thy sons and of thy daughters, and the lives of thy wives, by loving those that hate thee, and hating those that love thee. For thou hast declared this day that princes and servants are nothing to thee; yea, I perceive, that if Absalom had lived, and we had all died this day, it would have pleased thee well.

"Now therefore arise, go forth, and speak to the hearts of thy servants. For I swear by the Lord, if thou go not forth, not a man will tarry with thee this night; and that will be worse for thee than all the evil that hath befallen thee from thy youth until now."

Then the king arose, and sat in the gate. And it was told to the people, saying, "Behold, the king sitteth in the gate." So all the people came before the king.

—Second Samuel, Chapters 17, 18, 19.

DAVID'S RETURN TO JERUSALEM

NOW all Israel had fled to its tents. And the people were at strife throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "The king delivered us from the hand of our enemies, and from the hand of the Philistines; and now he has fled out of the land from Absalom. And Absalom, whom we anointed over us, has died in battle. Now, therefore, why say ye nothing about bringing the king back?" And the words of all Israel came to the king.

Thereupon king David sent word to Zadok and to Abiathar, the priests, saying, "Speak to the elders of Judah, saying, 'Ye are my brethren, my bone and my flesh. Why then should ye be the last to bring the king back?' "

Then the men of Judah sent word to the king, saying, "Return thou, and all thy servants." So the king returned, and came to the Jordan. And the men of Judah came to Gilgal, to conduct the king over the Jordan.

Now Shimei the son of Gera, the Benjamite,

hastened down with the men of Judah to meet king David. And there were a thousand men of Benjamin with him, and Ziba, the servant of the house of Saul, with his fifteen sons and twenty servants.

Now Shimei fell down before the king, and said, "Let not my lord hold me guilty, or remember the wicked conduct of thy servant on the day that my lord the king went out of Jerusalem. For thy servant knoweth that I have sinned. Therefore, behold, I am the first of all the house of Joseph to come down today to meet my lord the king."

Then Abishai the son of Zeruiah said, "Shall not Shimei be put to death because he cursed the Lord's anointed?" But David said, "Shall any man be put to death today in Israel? For do I not know that today I am king in Israel?" And the king said to Shimei, "Thou shalt not die!" And the king swore to him.

Then Mephibosheth came down to meet the king. He had not dressed his feet, or trimmed his beard, or washed his clothes, from the day the king departed until the day he came home in peace.

Now the king said to him, "Why didst thou not go with me, Mephibosheth?" And he answered, "My lord, O king, my servant deceived me. Thy servant said, 'I will saddle an ass, that I may ride thereon, and go with the king'; for thy servant is lame. He hath slandered thy servant to my lord, the king.

"But my lord the king is as an angel of God. Do therefore what is good in thine eyes. For all my father's house were deserving of death at the hand of my lord the king; yet didst thou set thy servant among those that ate at thine own table. What right have I still, or why should I still cry to the king?"

Then the king said to him, "Why speakest thou further? I say, thou and Ziba divide the land." And Mephibosheth said, "Yea, let him take all, since my lord the king hath come back to his own house in peace."

Now Barzillai the Gileadite came down from Rogelim. Barzillai was fourscore years old; and he had provided the king with sustenance while he lay at Mahanaim. And the king said to Barzillai, "Come thou over with me, and I will sustain thee in Jerusalem."

But Barzillai said to the king, "How long have I to live, that I should go up with the king to Jerusalem? I am fourscore years old. Can I discern between good and bad? Can thy servant taste what I eat or what I drink? Why then should thy servant be a burden to my lord the king?

"Let thy servant, I pray thee, turn back, that I may die in mine own city, by the grave of my father and my mother. But behold thy servant Chimham; let him go over with my lord the king. And deal thou with him as shall seem good to thee."

Then the king answered, "Chimham shall go with me, and I will deal with him as shall seem good to thee; and whatsoever thou shalt require of me, that will I do for thee."

Thereupon the king and all the people crossed the Jordan. And the king kissed Barzillai, and blessed him. And Barzillai returned to his own place; and David went to his house in Jerusalem.

—Second Samuel, Chapter 19.

SOLOMON BECOMES KING

NOW king David was old, stricken in years. And the king said, "Call Bathsheba." Now Bathsheba had born David a son, and called his name Solomon; and the Lord loved him.

When she came into his presence, the king said, "As the Lord liveth, who hath redeemed my soul from all adversity, verily as I swore to thee by the Lord, the God of Israel, saying, 'Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne in my stead'; even so will I do this day."

Then Bathsheba bowed with her face to the ground, and prostrated herself before the king, and said, "May my lord king David, live forever!"

Thereupon king David said, "Call Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada."

When they came before the king, the king said to them, "Take with you the servants of your lord, and cause Solomon my son to ride upon mine own mule, and bring him down to Gihon. And let Zadok

the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there as king over Israel. And blow ye the trumpet, and say, 'Long live king Solomon!' And he shall sit upon my throne, and be king in my stead; yea, I have appointed him to be prince over Israel and Judah."

Thereupon Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king, and said, "Amen! As the Lord hath been with my lord the king, even so may He be with Solomon, and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord king David."

So Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, caused Solomon to ride on king David's mule, and brought him to Gihon. And Zadok the priest took the horn of oil from the tabernacle, and anointed Solomon. And they blew the trumpet; and all the people said, "Long live king Solomon!" And all the people rejoiced greatly.

Now David called Solomon, and charged him to build a house for the Lord, the God of Israel.

David said to him, "My son, it was in my heart to build a house to the name of the Lord. But the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 'Thou shalt not build a house to My name, because thou hast waged great wars, and hast shed much blood.

" 'Behold, a son shall be born to thee, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all

"Now, my son, the Lord be with thee; and prosper thou, and build the house of the Lord."

his enemies round about. His name shall be Solomon (Peaceful), and I will give peace and quiet to Israel in his days. He shall build a house to My name. And he shall be a son to Me, and I will be a father to him; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.'

"Now, my son, the Lord be with thee; and prosper thou, and build the house of the Lord thy God, as He hath spoken concerning thee."

Now when the time drew near for king David to die, he charged Solomon his son, saying, "I am going the way of all the earth. Therefore be thou strong, and show thyself a man! And keep the charge of the Lord thy God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest; that the Lord may establish His word which He spoke concerning me, saying, 'If thy children take heed to their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail thee a man on the throne of Israel.' "

So David the son of Jesse, the anointed of the God of Jacob, the sweet singer in Israel, slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David.

—Second Samuel, Chapter 23;
First Kings, Chapters 1, 2;
First Chronicles, Chapter 22.

THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON

NOW Solomon sat upon the throne of David his father, and his kingdom was firmly established.

Now the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there. And the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream, and said, "Ask what I shall give thee."

Then Solomon answered, "Thou didst show great kindness to Thy servant David my father, and didst give him a son to sit on his throne. And now, O Lord my God, thou hast made Thy servant king instead of David my father; and I am but a little child, in the midst of Thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude.

"Give Thy servant therefore an understanding heart to judge Thy people, that I may discern between good and evil; for who is able to judge Thy great people?"

Now it pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this thing. And God said to him, "Because thou

hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life, or riches, or the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding, to discern justice; behold, I have done according to thy word.

"I have given thee a wise and understanding heart; so that there hath been none like thee before thee, neither shall any one like thee arise after thee. And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked: both riches and honor. And if thou wilt walk in My ways, to keep My commandments, as thy father David did, then I will lengthen thy days."

Then Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. And he returned to Jerusalem.

Then two women came to the king, and stood before him. And the one woman said, "O my lord, I and this woman dwell in one house. And a child was born to me; and it came to pass three days later, that a child was born to this woman also. And there was no one else with us in the house.

"Last night this woman's child died, because she overlay it. And she arose at midnight, and took my son from beside me, while thy handmaid slept, and laid him in her bosom, and laid her dead child in my bosom. And when I rose in the morning, behold, my child was dead. But when I had looked at him well, behold, it was not my son."

Then the other woman said, "Nay; but the living one is my son, and thy son is the dead." And the

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"Give her the living child; she is its mother!"

first woman said, "Nay; but the dead one is thy son, and my son is the living." Thus they spoke before the king.

Thereupon the king said, "The one saith, 'This is my son that liveth, and thy son is the dead one'; and the other saith, 'Nay; but thy son is the dead one, and my son is the living.'

"Bring me a sword!" So they brought a sword, and the king said, "Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other."

Then the woman to whom the living child belonged spoke to the king—for her heart yearned for her son—and she said, "O my lord, give her the living child, and by no means slay it!" But the other woman said, "It shall be neither mine nor thine! Divide it!"

Then the king said, "Give her the living child; she is its mother!"

Now when all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had given, they feared the king; for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him, to do justice.

—First Kings, Chapter 3.

SOLOMON'S GLORY

SOLOMON was king over all Israel. And Israel dwelt in safety, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, from Dan even to Beersheba, all the days of Solomon.

Solomon had forty thousand horses for his chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen. And he had twelve officers who provided food for the king and his household. Each one had to make provision for one month in the year.

Now Solomon's provision for one day was thirty measures of fine flour, and sixty measures of meal, ten fattened oxen, and twenty oxen from the pastures, and a hundred sheep, besides harts, and gazelles, and roebucks, and fatted fowl.

Now Solomon was building his own house thirteen years. He also built a house for Pharaoh's daughter, whom he had taken to wife. These were of costly hewn stones, from the foundation to the coping. The foundation was of great costly stones, stones of ten cubits, and stones of eight cubits; and above were costly hewn stones, and cedar wood.

King Solomon also built a fleet of ships in Ezion-geber, on the shore of the Red Sea, in the land of Edom. And Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants in the fleet, sailors that had knowledge of the sea, with the servants of Solomon. And they went to Ophir, and took gold from there, and brought it to king Solomon. The king also had a fleet of Tarshish at sea, with the fleet of Hiram. Once every three years the Tarshish fleet returned, bringing gold, and silver, and ivory, and apes, and peacocks.

Now the weight of gold that was brought to Solomon in one year was six hundred and sixty-six talents of gold. And king Solomon made two hundred targets of beaten gold: six hundred shekels of gold were used for each target. And he made three hundred shields of beaten gold: three pounds of gold were used for each shield.

Moreover, the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with the finest gold. The throne had six steps. On either side of the seat were arms, with two lions standing beside the arms; and twelve lions standing on the six steps, on either side. The like of it was not made in any kingdom.

All king Solomon's drinking vessels were of pure gold; none were of silver, which was of no account in the days of Solomon. For the king made silver as plentiful in Jerusalem as stones, and cedars as the sycamore trees in the Lowland.

The fleet that brought gold from Ophir, also brought sandal wood, and precious stones, in great abundance. From the sandal wood the king made pillars for the house of the Lord, and for the king's house; also harps and psalteries for the singers. No such sandal wood has ever been seen, to this day.

Now Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the children of the East, and all the wisdom of Egypt. He was wiser than all men; and his fame was spread among all the nations round about.

Solomon spoke three thousand proverbs, and his songs were a thousand and five. He spoke of trees, from the cedar that is in Lebanon to the hyssop that springeth out of the wall, and also of cattle, and fowl, and creeping things, and fishes.

So king Solomon exceeded all the things of the earth in riches and in wisdom. And all the kings of the earth sought the presence of Solomon, to hear his wisdom which God had put in his heart.

Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, she came to test him with hard questions. She came to Jerusalem with a very great train; with camels bearing spices, and very much gold, and precious stones. And when she came to Solomon, she spoke to him of all that was in her heart.

Now Solomon answered all her questions; there was nothing hidden from the king, which he could

Poynter

"Behold, the half was not told me."

not answer. And when the queen of Sheba had seen all the wisdom of Solomon, and the house that he had built, and the luxury of his table, and the splendor of his servants, and the burnt-offering which he offered in the house of the Lord, there was no more spirit in her.

Then she said to the king, "The report that I heard in mine own land of thine acts, and of thy wisdom, was true. But I believed it not, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it; and, behold, the half was not told me. Thy wisdom and prosperity exceed the report which I heard.

"Happy are thy servants, that stand before thee continually, and hear thy wisdom! Blessed be the Lord thy God, who delighted in thee, to set thee on the throne of Israel! Because the Lord loved Israel, therefore He made thee king, to do justice and righteousness."

Thereupon she gave the king a hundred and twenty talents of gold, and a very great store of spices, and precious stones. Never again was there brought such abundance of spices as the queen of Sheba gave to king Solomon.

Then king Solomon gave the queen of Sheba all that she desired; and she returned with her servants to her own land.

—First Kings, Chapters 4, 5, 7, 9, 10.

SOLOMON BUILDS THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

NOW Solomon sent to Hiram king of Tyre saying, "Thou knowest that David my father could not build a house for the Lord his God, because of the wars which were around him on every side. But now the Lord my God hath given me rest on every side, and behold, I purpose to build a house for the Lord my God, as the Lord spoke to David my father, saying, 'Thy son, whom I will set upon thy throne in thy place, he shall build the house.'

"Now therefore command thou that they cut cedar trees for me from Lebanon. And my servants shall work with thy servants; and I will give thee wages for thy servants, just as thou shalt say. For thou knowest that there is no one among us that hath skill in cutting timber like the Zidonians."

When Hiram heard the words of Solomon, he rejoiced greatly, and said, "Blessed be the Lord this day, who gave David a wise son to rule this great people."

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Hiram gave Solomon timber of cedar and cypress.

Then Hiram sent to Solomon, saying, "I will do all that thou desirest concerning timber of cedar and cypress. My servants shall bring them down from Lebanon to the sea, and I will make them into rafts to go by sea to the place that thou shalt appoint. And thou shalt accomplish my desire, in giving food for my household."

So Hiram gave Solomon timber of cedar and cypress, according to his desire. And Solomon gave Hiram twenty thousand measures of wheat for his household, and twenty measures of beaten oil, year by year. So there was peace between Hiram and Solomon.

In the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, he began to build the house of the Lord. Solomon's builders and Hiram's builders prepared the timber and the stones to build the house.

Now the house which king Solomon built for the Lord was sixty cubits in length, and twenty cubits in breadth, and thirty cubits in height. And he built the Sanctuary in the rear of the house, to set the ark of the covenant of the Lord there.

The house was built of stone made ready at the quarry; so no hammer, or axe, or any other iron tool was heard in the house, while they were building it. The inside walls of the house Solomon built of cedar, and roofed the house with cedar.

Now Solomon overlaid the house within with

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In the fourth year of his reign over Israel, Solomon began to build the house of the Lord.

pure gold. And in the Sanctuary he made two cherubim of olive wood, each ten cubits in height, with their wings outstretched; and he overlaid the cherubim with gold.

In the eleventh year of Solomon's reign, the house was finished. So he was seven years in building it.

Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes, in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord from the city of David, which is Zion. And all the men of Israel assembled at the feast, in the seventh month. And the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the Lord into the Sanctuary of the house, to the most holy place, under the wings of the cherubim. There was nothing in the ark save the two tables of stone, which Moses had put therein at Horeb.

Thereupon king Solomon blessed all the congregation of Israel, while all the congregation of Israel stood up. And he said, "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who spoke to David my father, saying, 'Since the day that I brought forth My people Israel out of Egypt, I chose no city out of all the tribes of Israel, to build a house, that My name might be there.'

"Now it was in the heart of David my father to build a house for the Lord, the God of Israel. But

the Lord said to my father, 'Thou shalt not build the house; but thy son, he shall build it.'

"Now the Lord hath established His word. I sit upon the throne of Israel, as the Lord promised, and have built the house for the Lord, the God of Israel. And there I have made a place for the ark, wherein is the covenant of the Lord, which He made with our fathers, when He brought them out of the land of Egypt."

—First Kings, Chapters 5, 6, 8.

SOLOMON DEDICATES THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

THEN Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven. And he said, "O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like Thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath; who keepest covenant with Thy servants, that walk before Thee with all their heart.

"Now therefore, God of Israel, let Thy word, I pray Thee, be verified, which Thou didst speak to Thy servant David my father, saying, 'There shall not fail thee a man to sit upon the throne of Israel; if only thy children take heed to their way, to walk before Me as thou hast walked before Me.'

"But will God in very truth dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain Thee; how much less this house that I have built!

"Yet have Thou respect for the prayer of Thy servant, O Lord my God, to hearken to the prayer

which Thy servant prayeth before Thee this day; that Thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, toward the place whereof Thou hast said, 'My name shall be there'; to hearken to the supplication of Thy servant, and of Thy people Israel, when they shall pray in the direction of this place. Yea, hear Thou in heaven Thy dwelling place; and when Thou hearest, forgive.

"If a man sin against his neighbor, and an oath be exacted of him, and he come and swear before Thine altar in this house: then hear Thou in heaven, and judge Thy servants, condemning the wicked, to bring his way upon his own head; and justifying the righteous, to give him according to his righteousness.

"When Thy people Israel are smitten before the enemy, when they sin against Thee; if they turn again to Thee, and confess Thy name, and pray to Thee in this house: then hear Thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of Thy people Israel.

"When heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, when they sin against Thee; if they pray in the direction of this place, and confess Thy name, and turn from their sin: then hear Thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of Thy people Israel. And send rain upon Thy land, which Thou hast given to Thy people for an inheritance.

"If there be famine in the land, or pestilence, or plague; if their enemy besiege them in their

cities; whatsoever prayer be made by any man of Thy people Israel, who shall know the plague of his own heart, and spread out his hands toward this house: hear Thou in heaven Thy dwelling place, and forgive. And give to every man according to his ways, since Thou knowest his heart—for Thou alone knowest the hearts of all the children of men—that they may fear Thee all the days that they live in the land which Thou gavest to our fathers.

"Moreover concerning the stranger that is not of Thy people Israel, when he shall come from a far country for Thy name's sake—for they shall hear of Thy great name, and of Thy mighty hand, and of Thine outstretched arm—when he shall come and pray in the direction of this house: hear Thou in heaven Thy dwelling place, and do according to all that the stranger calleth to Thee for; that all the peoples of the earth may know Thy name, to fear Thee as doth Thy people Israel, and that they may know that this house which I have built is called by Thy name.

"If Thy people go forth to battle against their enemy, and they pray to the Lord in the direction of the city which Thou hast chosen, and of the house which I have built for Thee: then hear Thou in heaven their prayer, and maintain their cause.

"If they sin against Thee—for there is no man

that sinneth not—and Thou be angry with them, and deliver them to the enemy, so that they carry them away captive; if then they shall bethink themselves in the land whither they are carried captive, and repent, and make supplication to Thee in the land of their captors, saying, 'We have sinned, and have dealt wickedly'; and return to Thee with all their heart and with all their soul, and pray to Thee in the direction of their land, which Thou gavest to their fathers, and of the city which Thou hast chosen, and of the house which I have built for Thee: then hear Thou their prayer in heaven Thy dwelling place, and maintain their cause. And forgive Thy people who have sinned against Thee; and cause them to find mercy before their captors, that they may have mercy on them.

"For they are Thy people, and Thine inheritance, which Thou broughtest forth from Egypt, from the midst of the iron furnace; and Thou didst set them apart from among all the peoples of the earth, to be Thine inheritance."

Now when Solomon had made an end of praying to the Lord, he blessed all the congregation with a loud voice, saying, "Blessed be the Lord, that hath given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised. There hath not failed one word of all His good promise, which He promised through Moses His servant.

"May the Lord our God be with us as He was with our fathers. May He not leave us, nor forsake us; that He may incline our hearts to Him, to walk in all His ways, and to keep His commandments, and His statutes, and His ordinances, which He commanded our fathers.

"May these words of mine, wherewith I have made supplication before the Lord, be nigh to the Lord our God day and night, that He may maintain the cause of His servant, and the cause of His people Israel, as every day shall require; that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God; there is none else.

"Let your hearts therefore be perfect with the Lord our God, to walk in His statutes, and to keep His commandments."

Then the king and all the people offered sacrifice before the Lord. So the king and all the people dedicated the house of the Lord.

Now Solomon, and all Israel with him, held the feast for seven days. On the eighth day he sent the people away. So they blessed the king, and went to their tents, joyful and glad of heart, for all the goodness that the Lord had shown to David His servant, and to Solomon, and to Israel His people.

—First Kings, Chapter 8;
Second Chronicles, Chapter 7.

PRONOUNCING LIST

ā—pāy; ă—băd; ä—ärt; ē—mē; ĕ—bĕd; ẽ—fẽrn; ī—īce; ĭ—tĭn; ō—gō; ŏ—nŏt; ū—rūle; ŭ—rŭn.

Abiathar, ăb-ī′ăth-är
Abiezer, ăb″ĭ-ē′zẽr
Abiezrite, ăb″ĭ-ĕz′rīt
Abigail, ăb′ĭ-gāl
Abinadab, ă-bĭn′ă-dăb
Abinoam, ă-bĭn′ō-ăm
Abishai, ă-bĭsh′ă-ī
Abner, ăb′nẽr
Absalom, ăb′săl-ŏm
Achish, ā′kĭsh
Adullam, ă-dŭl′lăm
Age, ā′gē
Ahimaaz, ă-hĭm′ă-ăz
Ahimelech, ă-hĭm′ĕl-ĕk
Ahithophel, ă-hĭth′ō-fĕl
Ai, ī
Aijalon, īj′ăl-ŏn
Amalek, ăm′ăl-ĕk
Amalekite, ăm′ăl-ĕk-īt
Amasa, ăm′ă-să
Ammiel, ăm′mĭ-ĕl
Ammon, ăm′mŏn
Ammonite, ăm′mŏn-īt
Amorite, ăm′ō-rīt
Aramean, ăr″ăm-ē′ăn
Archite, är′kīt
Asher, ăsh′ẽr
Ashkelon, ăsh′kĕl-ŏn
Baanah, bā′ăn-äh
Bahurim, bă-hū′rĭm
Barak, bā′răk
Barzillai, bär-zĭl′lī
Bathsheba, băth-shē′bă
Benaiah, bĕ-nā′yäh
Benjamin, bĕn′jă-mĭn
Benjamite, bĕn′jă-mīt
Beer-sheba, bē″ẽr-shē′bă
Beth-el, bĕth′ĕl
Beth-lehem, bĕth′lĕ-hĕm
Beth-lehemite, bĕth′lĕ-hĕm-īt
Beth-shan, bĕth′shăn
Caleb, kā′lĕb
Canaan, kā′năn
Carmel, kär′mĕl
cherubim, chĕr′ŭ-bĭm
Chimham, kĭm′hăm
cubit, kyū′bĭt [rĭsh″ă-thä′ĭm]
Cushan-rishathaim, kū″shăn-
Cushite, kŭsh′īt
Dagon, dā′gŏn

Damascus, dă-măs′kŭs
Danite, dăn′īt
Deborah, dĕb′ō-räh
Delilah, dĕ-lī′läh
Dodo, dō′dō
Edom, ē′dŏm
Edomite, ē′dŏm-īt
Egypt, ē′jĭpt
Egyptian, ē-jĭp′shŭn
Eleazar, ĕl″ē-ā′zär
Eli, ē′lī
Eliab, ĕ-lī′ăb
Elkanah, ĕl-kā′näh
En-dor, ĕn′dōr
En-rogel, ĕn-rō′gĕl
Ephraim, ē′frā-ĭm
Ephraimite, ē′frā-ĭm-īt
Etam, ē′tăm
Gadite, găd′īt
Gath, găth
Gaza, gā′zā
Gazite, gā′zīt
Gera, gē′rā
Gibeah, gĭb′ē-äh
Gibeon, gĭb′ē-ŏn
Gibeonite, gĭb′ē-ŏn-īt
Gihon, gī′hŏn
Gilboa, gĭl-bō′ă
Gilead, gĭl′ē-ăd
Gileadite, gĭl′ē-ăd-īt
Gilgal, gĭl′găl
Giloh, gī′lŏh
Goliath, gō-lī′ăth
greave, grēv
Hachilah, hă-kī′läh
Hachmonite, hăk′mŏ-nīt
Hannah, hăn′näh
Hazor, hā′zŏr
Heber, hē′bĕr
Hebron, hĕb′rŏn
Hiram, hī′răm
Hittite, hĭt′īt
Hophni, hŏf′nī
Hushai, hū′shī
hyssop, hĭs′ŏp
Ish-bosheth, ĭsh″bō′shĕth
Israel, ĭz′rĭ-ĕl
Israelite, ĭz′rĭ-ĕl-īt
Ittai, ĭt′tī
Jabesh, jā′bĕsh
Jabesh-gilead, jā″bĕsh-gĭl′ē-ăd
Jabin, jā′bĭn
Jael, jā′ĕl
Jashobeam, jă-shō′bē-ăm
javelin, jăv′lĭn
Jebusite, jĕb′yū-sīt
Jehoiada, jē-hoy′ă-dă
Jephthah, jĕf′thäh
Jericho, jĕr′ĭ-kō
Jerusalem, jē-rū′să-lĕm
Jesse, jĕs′ĭ
Jezreel, jĕz′rē-ĕl
Joab, jō′ăb
Joash, jō′ăsh
Jonathan, jŏn′ă-thăn
Jordan, jōr′dăn
Joshua, jŏsh′ū-ă
Karkor, kär′kŏr
Kedesh [năf′tă-lī], Kedesh-naphtali, kē″dĕsh-
Keilah, kē-ī′läh
Kenaz, kē′năz

Kenite, kē′nīt
Kiriath-jearim, kĭr″ĭ-ăth-jē′ă-rĭm
Kish, kĭsh
Kishon, kī′shŏn
Lappidoth, lăp′pĭ-dŏth
Lebanon, lĕb′ă-nŏn
Lo-debar, lō″dē′bär
Machir, mā′kĭr
Mahanaim, mā″hă-nā′ĭm
Malchi-shua, măl″kĭ-shū′ă
Manasseh, mă-năs′sĕ
Manoah, mă-nō′ăh
Maon, mā′ŏn
Megiddo, mĕ-gĭd′dō
Mephibosheth, mĕ-fĭb′ō-shĕth
Michal, mī′kăl
Michmas, mĭk′măs
Midian, Mĭd′ĭ-ăn
Midianite, mĭd′ĭ-ăn-īt
Mizpah, mĭz′päh
Moab, mō′ăb
Moabite, mō′ăb-īt
Nabal, nā′băl
Nahash, nā′hăsh
Naioth, nā′yŏth
Naphtali, năf′tă-lī
Nathan, nā′thăn
Nazirite, năz′ĭ-rīt
Ner, nĕr
Nun, nŭn
Og, ŏg
Ophir, ō′fĭr
Ophrah, ŏf′räh
Oreb, ō′rĕb
Othniel, ŏth′nĭ-ĕl
Peninnah, pĕ-nĭn′näh
Philistine, fĭ-lĭs′tĭn
Phinehas, fĭn′ĕ-hăs
Purah, pū′räh
Rahab, rā′hăb
Ramah, rā′mäh
Rechab, rē′kăb
Rephaim, rĕ-fā′ĭm
Reubenite, rū′bĕn-īt
Rogelim, rō′gĕ-lĭm
saith, sĕth
Samuel, săm′yū-ĕl
sanctuary, săngk′chū-ĕ-rĭ
Saul, sŏl
Shammah, shăm′mäh
Sheba, shē′bă
shekel, shĕk′ĕl
shibboleth, shĭb′ō-lĕth
Shiloh, shī′lōh
Shimei, shĭm′ĕ-ī
Shittim, shĭt′ĭm
Shobi, shō′bī
Shunem, shū′nĕm
sibboleth, sĭb′bō-lĕth
Sihon, sī′hŏn
Sisera, sĭs′ĕr-ă
Sorek, sō′rĕk
Tabor, tā′bŏr
tamarisk, tăm′ă-rĭsk
Tarshish, tär′shĭsh
Timnah, tĭm′näh
Timnite, tĭm′nīt
Tob, tŏb
Tyre, tīr
Uriah, yū-rī′äh
Zadok, zā′dŏk
Zalmunna, zăl-mŭn′nă

Zebah, zē′bäh
Zebulun, zĕb′yū-lŭn
Zeeb, zē′ĕb
Zeruiah, zĕ-rū′yă
Ziba, zī′bă
Zidonian, zī-dō′nĭ-ăn
Ziklag, zĭk′lăg
Zion, zī′ŏn
Ziph, zĭf
Ziphite, zĭf′īt
Zobah, zō′bäh
Zorah, zō′räh

KISHON
CAMP OF SISERA
DEBORAH
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
ASHKELON
STORY OF THE GIBEONITES
GIBEON
MIZPAH
JEPHTHAH'S DAUGHTER
GAZA
GATH
BEER-SHEBA
EZION GEBER
PICTURE MAP
OF BIBLE STORIES
"INTO THE PROMISED LAND"

DAN
ENDOR
VALLEY OF JEZREEL
SEA OF CHINNERETH
CAMP OF SAUL
GILBOA
WALLED CITY
JABESH GILEAD
SHILOH
ELI AND SAMUEL
CROSSING OF THE JORDAN
AI
R. JORDAN
JERICHO
RAMAH
JERUSALEM
BETH-LEHEM
SAMUEL AND THE SONS OF JESSE
DEAD SEA
HEBRON
DAVID ANNOINTED KING
CARMEL
ABIGAIL KNEELS BEFORE DAVID
F. SPECTOR